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GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN CONFIRMS VIOLA CABINET LIST

PY280038 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 27 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] (NA)--A Government House spokesman yesterday confirmed the complete roster of names which will make up in-coming President Roberto Viola's national cabinet, after its unofficial release on Wednesday.

The spokesman also said the appointees for the cabinet posts of industry and mining minister, and culture and education minister, which were still up in the air on Wednesday, have been confirmed.

The complete cabinet list is as follows: Finance Minister Lorenzo Sigaut; Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion; Interior Minister Horacio Liendo; Justice Minister Amadeo Frugoli; Defence Minister Rear Adm Norberto Couto; Livestock and Agriculture Minister Jorge Aguado; Industry and Mining Minister Eduardo Oxenford; Trade Minister Carlos Garcia Martinez; Labor Minister Brig Julio Cesar Porcile; Social Action Minister Vice Adm Carlos Lacoste; Public Health Minister Brigadier Doctor Amilcar Arguelles (ret); Public Works and Services minister Gen Diego Urricariet (ret); Culture and Education Minister Carlos Burundarena.

BUSINESSES PROTEST GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY

PY271353 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1504 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Feb (NA)--Many businesses across the country today confirmed their support for the "day of national protest for change" proposed by the National Business Assembly (CONAE) to object to the armed forces economic policies, but by noon today only a few businesses had accompanied the protest with actions.

The CONAE expanded board of directors complained to the commanders of the armed forces, the governor of Buenos Aires Province and the commander of I Corps that in several locations of Buenos Aires Province alleged "intimidation measures" were carried out by "police personnel" against supporters of the protest. At noon today business activity was normal in this capital and in Greater Buenos Aires.

The Buenos Aires Business Federation, however, called on its members to carry out a stoppage beginning at 1830 today. The Buenos Aires Economic Federation (FEBA) and the Buenos Aires Industrial Association made the same call.

In Rosario, where the CONAE General Secretariat is located, businesses began to close at noon, but the degree of support for the protest will only be noticed in the afternoon when businesses reopen. The CONAE decided to suspend a ceremony scheduled for this afternoon to place a wreath at the Manuel Belgrano Monument.

In Mendoza, business activity was normal although there were several calls of support for the CONAE proposal. Similar situations were reported in Cordoba and Chaco Provinces, where activities were normal.

In Resistencia, however, the Argentine Agrarian Federation and the Association of Timber Producers publicly expressed their support but did not call on their members to take any direct action. The Resistencia Chamber of Commerce announced that it does not support the call, but in a communique released last night it harshly criticized the military regime's economic policies.

In Entre Rios, bank and public transportation employees were working "slow." In Crespo, dairy owners obstructed Route 131 and, along with poultry farmers, began a stoppage at noon today.

The Alto Valle de Rio Negro Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production expressed support for the protest and called on its members to stop work from 1600 to 1800.

In Neuquen, activity was normal and the local association of commerce, industry and production expressed its opposition to the day of protest.

In Santa Fe, commerce and industry are proceeding normally. The Salta Province Justicialist Party expressed its solidarity with CONAE businesses and invited them to a mass in the San Agustin chapel at 2000 today. The Tucuman Economic Federation also publicly expressed its support for CONAE's call but did not say if it is going to call on its members to take direct action. However, it demanded the release of two businessmen detained in Santa Fe for alleged violation of National Security Law No 21,400.

CONAE Communique

PY271559 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1122 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Roasario, 27 Feb (NA)--The National Business Assembly (CONAE) has stated that the "national protest for change day" organized yesterday was successful because "more than 600 businessmen expressed their rejection of the current economic and social policies and demanded an immediate change, although most expressed their support verbally instead of with direct actions."

A communique released by CONAE states: "The country has definitely stated its desire for change. Some employed protest measures; others did not support CONAE but did express the need for change and their opposition to the economic policy." The communique adds: "The armed forces--responsible for what is taking place and can take place in the country at this time--must not take this protest as an aggression but as a sincere and unyielding demand for substantial changes to be carried out immediately to allow businessmen to produce; workers to receive dignified wages; professionals to give more quality to their jobs; intellectuals to be more creative; and political parties to normalize their activities, renew their memberships and fulfill their irreplaceable role in society. This is the change we want."

In this city, where CONAE has its General Secretariat, business support was expressed under close police surveillance. Officials prohibited CONAE officials from placing a wreath at the Belgrano Monument.

In Santa Fe, activity was normal all day, but two CONAE members detained last Tuesday on charges of violating the national security law were released. Activity was also normal in the Greater Buenos Aires area, including the federal capital, Mendoza, Tucuman, Chaco, Neuquen and La Pampa.

There were partial stoppages in Reconquista and San Justo, Santa Fe Province; in Alto Valle de Rio Negro; and Parana, Crespo and other cities in Entre Rios Province.

The CONAE communique states that the protest was carried out despite "the arrests, prohibitions, threats and unprecedented psychological harassment."

LABOR LEADERS WARNED ABOUT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

PY271333 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Feb 81 p 6

[Text] It has been reported by generally well-informed sources that several labor leaders have been warned by the labor and police authorities that the laws that prohibit labor and political activities are still in force. The majority of the labor leaders have mandates with organizations that are members of the General Labor Confederation [CGT]. Saul Ubaldini (brewery workers), Ricardo Perez (truck drivers), Osvaldo Borda (tire workers), Alberto Caldera (stevedores) and Manuel Rey Diaz (travelling sales representatives) were warned by Labor Under Secretary Col Rolando Valentino Rojas.

Other union leaders, such as Roberto Garcia (taxi drivers), Jose Rodriguez (mechanics) and Roberto Digon were summoned to the headquarters of the Superintendency of Federal Security. These union members are part of the leadership of the Peronist labor movement, which also belongs to the CGT.

It is also known that Diego Ibanez (oil workers) and Rogelio Papagno (construction workers) were summoned to federal police headquarters, in addition to Lorenzo Miguel, who was summoned on Monday. The three of them, as is known, are subjected to the Institutional Responsibility Act; therefore, they are not permitted to carry out labor or political activities.

During the past few days the above-mentioned labor leaders have been meeting with representatives of political organizations within the framework of the dialogue that the CGT is sponsoring in order to seek an agreement for a joint position opposing government policy.

SOVIET UNION CLOSES IMPORTANT GRAIN DEALS

FY271501 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 26 Feb 81 p 12

[Text] Yesterday and the day before, significant quantities of feed grains and soybeans were sold to the Soviet Union, which last year signed an agreement with Argentina to secure the supply of at least 3 million tons of corn, 1 million tons of sorghum and 500,000 tons of soybeans over a 5-year period.

According to a source from the local export sector, the Soviet Union has so far purchased between 3 and 3.5 million tons of feed grains--25 percent sorghum and the rest corn--and 500,000 tons of soybeans. The latter quantity includes approximately 300,000 tons which were probably sold yesterday and the day before.

Should these quantities be confirmed, it would appear that the Soviet Union has already purchased more than three-fourths of the tonnage provided for in the agreement, in addition to which the Soviet Union has purchased approximately 2.1 million tons of wheat.

According to the source, the grains will be shipped in the following manner: corn and sorghum from 15 March until the end of May, and soybean from 15 May until 15 June. The prices were not disclosed, although it was said that they were good. The corn has reportedly been priced at between $4 and $5 above Gulf of Mexico value, and it was indicated that should the exchange rate follow its current trend the price in the port of Buenos Aires would reach 29,000 Argentine pesos per quintal [100 pounds].

The above transactions took place during the visit which a Soviet mission responsible for the shipment is making to the country and shortly before the beginning of a trip by the chairman of the National Grain Board, David Lacroze, which will include a visit to Moscow.

GARCIA MEZA: SINISTER PLOT TO KILL LEADERS EXISTS

PA281726 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1635 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] La Paz, 28 Feb (LATIN)--Gen Luis Garcia Meza, president of Bolivia, has charged that a plan exists to kill him and other members of the junta.

At the same time, he ordered the suspension of the curfew during the carnival feast days.

General Garcia Meza made a speech yesterday in the city of Cochabamba, 430 km southeast of this capital, to a rally of peasants who expressed their support for him, according to newspaper reports published here today.

He told a large gathering of farmworkers that the government has knowledge of the existence of a "sinister plot" to kill the members of the junta, including himself.

The junta is currently made up of General Garcia Meza, its president; Gen Waldo Bernal Pereira of the air force; and Vice Adm Ramiro Terrazas Rodriguez of the navy.

"The purpose of this large gathering is to tell extremists that we are on the alert against any attack by these individuals who bring us foreign orders and accursed money from abroad," said Garcia, who added that "they do not scare us, because we know we are struggling for the fatherland."

In his speech, the chief of state said that "they continue to speak about our being a government of drug traffickers." He denied these charges and he said the government of the defeated former President Lydia Gueiler promoted drug trafficking activities in this country.

He accused Jorge Selum Vaca Diez, former interior minister of Mrs Gueiler, of having begun "incentives" for the trafficking of cocaine in order to collect funds, to buy Cuban weapons and to set out on the path of an insurrection which would have pitted the armed forces against the civilian sectors.

Lydia Gueiler Tejada was Bolivian president from November 1979 to 17 July 1980 when she resigned following the military revolt that permitted Gen Garcia Meza to reach the Presidency.

Garcia Meza said that since then "we have engaged in an open struggle against drug traffickers, against those who want to poison our peoples" and he said flatly that "either they stay or the honest men of the armed forces stay."

He announced that within the framework of the repression of drug trafficking, the regulation of coca production (raw material for cocaine) will be undertaken. Military units of this capital announced the seizure of 30,000 kg of coca which entered the local market illegally, presumably destined for the manufacture of drugs. As the president was speaking, official spokesmen of the presidency of the republic announced that Gen Luis Garcia Meza has ordered the suspension of the curfew during the days of carnival.

The curfew is a security measure in force since 17 July which is aimed at preventing the movement of persons from 2300 until 0600. The document released to the news media mentions that the measure was adopted "to permit the population to enjoy the carnival festivities without restrictions." The Bolivian carnival began today when 10,000 folklore dancers made a spectacular "entrance" into the city of Oruro. These festivities will continue tomorrow in this capital with other events and will continue in the city of Santa Cruz, where dazzling events are scheduled.

FOREIGN MINISTER TO PLAY DOWN RECOGNITION ISSUE

PY271815 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Mario Rolon Anaya took office this morning in the Foreign Ministry. He called on the ministry personnel to exert all their efforts to accomplish the objectives set by the government for the second stage of the process of national reconstruction.

He said that despite the fact that there are plans to reduce personnel in the ministry, he will respect career personnel and those who are working responsibly.

He also referred to relations with other countries. He said that we should free ourselves from this psychosis of getting recognition.

DISMISSED INTERIOR MINISTER MAKES STATEMENT

PY271903 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1625 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] La Paz, 27 Feb (TELAM)--Col Luis Arce Gomez, former Bolivian interior minister, has admitted that he is a hardliner within the armed forces and that whenever any danger like anarchy, chaos and extremism return to the country he will be on the firing line.

He indicated that the process launched on 17 July will continue and urged the members of the military institution to staunchly support Gen Luis Garcia Meza, current president of the military government.

Arce Gomez, considered to be one of the strongmen of the current regime, revealed that he had asked to be relieved three times because he was tired and that now he is simply awaiting for the assignment which the army command may give him so he can obey it as discipline demands.

In his statement Arce Gomez indicated that he has been the minister most scored and landered by the foreign press because "I am a hardliner within the armed forces."

The former minister said that the United States is a country which operates on the basis of documents and not at the whim of the politicians and added that there has been no note from the United States "asking for my dismissal from the cabinet as a condition for recognizing the current government." He said , however, that he hopes this recognition will soon be extended.

He concluded by saying that his ouster will make the day for many people and added that his successor is a very able person. "He may not be as hard as I am, but he will ensure that the policy is continued," he added.

He thanked the press for the coverage given to the information issued by his ministry and admitted that, like anyone else, he may have made some mistakes but that he did not make some others thanks to the advice of the press.

NUMEROUS SECTORS RESPOND TO 'LULA' SENTENCING

President Figueiredo's Comment

PY281215 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Brazilian President Figueiredo said today that he had expected that Nelson Marchezan would be elected president of the Chamber of Deputies, and that his election proves that many people believe in him.

General Figueiredo indicated that his next political project will be the direct elections for governors scheduled for 1982. He added that Lula's [Jose Inacio da Silva] sentence has nothing to do with the democratic opening because Lula was sentenced by the courts, and "I am the one who is carrying out the opening," he said.

International Reaction

PY271324 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The prison term imposed on Luis Ignacio da Silva, alias Lula, and 10 other union leaders has had worldwide repercussions. In Geneva, (Herman Redhan), secretary general of the International Metalworkers Federation, termed the punishment a savage and brutal repressive action. (Redhan) asked the 14 million members of the federation in 68 countries to present strong protests to Brazilian embassies abroad and to the governments of their respective countries, so that their protests can be relayed to President Figueiredo. The International Metalworkers Federation embraces 170 unions.

In Brussels, the socialist group of the European Parliament also presented a strong protest for the sentence imposed on Lula and his colleagues. German Socialist Karl Heinrich Mihr, president of the Volkswagen Industry Council, was one of the parliament members who protested the prison term imposed on Lula.

In Rome, the federation of three Italian unions also sent telegrams to the Brazilian Government and to Justice Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel protesting the sentence imposed on Luis Ignacio da Silva and 10 other union leaders.

In Stockholm, Sweden, three workers organizations also protested the trial and sentencing of 11 Brazilian union leaders. One of these organizations was the metalworkers union that has arranged for Lula and (Jacob Bittar) to visit Sweden by mid-1980.

Workers Party Note

PY271307 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The Workers Party today released an official note accusing the government of arbitrary actions against the rights of workers in sentencing to prison terms the metalworkers union leaders of the ABC region.

The note states that the regime wanted to place on the defendants' bench, leaders who, being faithful to their legal rights and principles, have openly fought for better salaries and better working conditions. Moreover, the document adds, with this military trial, which is filled with irregularities, the regime itself was on the defendants' bench before national and international public opinion. The note also stated that, although promising political opening and democratic transition, the government has just demonstrated once again that it denies the workers' fundamental rights: the right to strike and minimum standards for working and living conditions.

Lula's Statement

PY281439 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] The national president of the Popular Party, Jose Inacio da Silva, Lula, today said that he and the other 10 arrested and sentenced union leaders have been used as hostages in the elections for president of the Chamber of Deputies.

Lula indicated that their release was tied to the result of the elections. These remarks were made at a meeting held at the house of the chairman of the Sao Paulo branch of the Brazilian Press Association. The meeting was attended by foreign union leaders and Nobel Prize laureate Adolfo Perez Esquivel.

Lula also visited the Ford factory in Sao Bernardo, where he thanked the workers for the solidarity strike that they staged to protest his imprisonment. During this meeting he said that the metalworkers are proposing a good agreement, but if the employers remain inflexible the greatest strike ever staged in Sao Bernardo could take place.

ARMY MINISTER PIRES WARNS AGAINST AGITATORS

PY280014 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1320 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Brasilia, 27 Feb (TELAM)--Today Army Minister Gen Walter Pires gave a warning against those who seek to disturb the process of consolidation of democracy in Brazil.

In an order of the day distributed within the high command, General Pires states that the nation should be alert to the insidious action of the usual agitators who, taking advantage of the democratic privileges, seek to disturb the process of consolidation of democracy, which is the main objective of the revolution.

The order of the day distributed by the army minister gives instructions for the celebration of the 17th anniversary of the revolution, which took place on 31 March 1964.

General Pires stated that: This is the appropriate time to remember our brave compatriots who fell heroically in the struggle against subversion and who contributed with their lives to preserve our institutions.

The army minister believes that: The March 1964 revolution represents the most vehement sign of Brazilian people's repudiation of the attempt to implement in our country a regime which was contrary to the nature and traditions of our people and therefore allows us to reassert the complete validity of its ideals.

Minister Pires believes that the most significant events of our history should be recalled, not only because it is a patriotic duty, but because they serve as an example and incentive to the younger generations.

FARC GUERRILLA LEADER ARRESTED; ARMS CACHE FOUND

PA270450 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2242 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] Bogota, 26 Feb (EFE)--One of the most important leaders of the Colombian communist guerrillas, David Baldion, was arrested today by the army in northwestern Colombia.

Major Arevalo, chief of the Army Public Relations Office, told EFE by phone that the guerrilla chief was arrested in La Esperanza, 630 km from here.

Baldion, chief of a tactical support column of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), a communist group, was carrying carbines with telescopic sights, machineguns, pistols, revolvers, grenades, ammunition, and ammunition clips at the time of his arrest.

Army intelligence also seized a number of FARC uniforms in a camper Baldion had parked near a farm in the area.

The FARC, the second main guerrilla organization in the country, earlier this week kidnapped eight wealthy ranchers, demanding $4 million ransom.

PROSECUTOR SAYS M-19 INFILTRATED GOVERNMENT

PA011352 Paris AFP in Spanish 0044 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Bogota, 28 Feb (EFE)--Col Augusto Pradilla, prosecutor at the court-martial of guerrillas of the 19 April Movement [M-19], has disclosed that the guerrilla organization was able to infiltrate agents into state organizations.

During a session of the court-martial being held here to try more than 100 M-19 members, the military officer said an important official linked to the country's banks was keeping M-19 funds in safe deposit boxes.

The prosecutor also noted that the organizations and institutions infiltrated by the M-19 included the National Telecommunications Enterprise, the Agustin Codazzi Geographic Institute and the University of El Valle, all state agencies.

Colonel Pradilla disclosed that several important unions in the country are collaborating with the M-19, one of the most active subversive groups in the country.

The M-19 interrupted the state-owned television channels last night to air subversive slogans and Jaime Bateman Cayon, the top M-19 leader, sent messages to guerrillas in prison.

WORKERS AT OIL REFINERY STRIKE; TROOPS CALLED IN

PA281600 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Barrancabermeja--A total of 3,800 workers from the Colombian Petroleum Enterprise [ECOPETROL] have walked off their jobs, an action that has paralyzed 70 percent of production. The workers are protesting the decision of Marcos Gomez, ECOPETROL regional manager, not to grant Andelfo Rodriguez, the labor negotiator, permission and expense money to continue negotiating the workers' demands in Bogota. The workers are going to decide in the new few hours what action to take.

In the meantime, troops from the artillery batallion Nueva Granada were sent to the oil refinery today and they occupied the installations in Casabe, Cantagallo and El Centro. The troops were sent because of the tense situation created by the workers, who have definitely stopped working. It was necessary for ECOPETROL administrative personnel to assume some of the workers' duties to prevent a total paralysis of fuel production operations. However, the situation remains tense because the workers refuse to have anything to do with Gomez.

During the occupation of the oil refinery by the soldiers, some workers were bruised. The workers have said that as long as the establishment is occupied by the soldiers they will not return to work.

OIL OUTPUT RISE REPORTED IN SECOND PART OF 1980

PA270452 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] Bogota--During the second half of 1980 there was a gradual recovery in oil production in the country, marking the end of several years of progressive decline which had resulted in an increase in the import of hydrocarbons.

A report prepared by the Colombian Petroleum Engineers Association [Asociacion Colombiana de Ingenieros de Petroleo--ACIPET] revealed that December marked the highest volume of production, with 128,350 barrels daily exploitation by the Colombian petroleum enterprise, ECOPETROL, and six associate firms.

The same report indicated that during the first half of the same year national production reached 22,376,157 barrels, while the production for the second half amounted to 23,133,310 barrels. The volume produced registered fluctuations until August, but it maintained a rising trend as of September.

The ACIPET report included exploration activities by the various companies until 12 January 1981, noting the drilling of 19 wells, 10 of which are new. ECOPETROL started operations in (?Chisatzuga), in Cundinamarca, in Magdalena, in Yariquies, Bolivar, in Santander and Putumayo.

NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE IN PERUVIAN BORDER DISPUTE

Roldos on Separation of Forces

PA280255 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] President Jaime Roldos said today that the agreement on the separation of forces following the border clashes with Peru is a step on the lengthy road to peace with justice. The separation of forces began to take place on Thursday in the Condor Mountain Range area where the armed clashes occurred a little over a month ago.

In a speech delivered in Tarqui near Cuenca, the president said that this step has been taken with firmness and responsibility in the search for a just and honorable peace. He recalled that Ecuador proposed to the OAS the need for the disengagement and demobilization of the Ecuadorean and Peruvian troops on the border in order to promote a peaceful process and as a requirement for continuing to search for a solution of the border dispute with Peru through peaceful and legal channels.

In this way he referred to the 19th OAS foreign ministers' consultative meeting that was held in Washington in early February to hear Ecuador's charges about the Peruvian attacks on the border.

He explained that the exclusive purpose of the recent agreement on the separation of forces is to make the cease-fire effective and that it does not mean that Ecuador has relinquished any of its territorial rights. In our actions, he said, we have not only shown our attitude in favor of peace but we have also shown our unwavering position of defending absolutely all our legitimate territorial rights.

He stressed that the Ecuadorean people do not want one more millimeter of land but they are determined to defend their territory.

The president charged that during the conflict, efforts were made to portray Ecuador as an aggressor and a violator of human rights. He blamed these campaigns on the interests that want to (?silence) the democratic voice of the Ecuadorean Government.

Army Begins Gradual Withdrawal

PA281259 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0836 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Quito, 27 Feb (EFE)--Ecuador has begun the gradual withdrawal of its forces from the Condor Range in compliance with a promise made to the countries that are mediating in the border conflict with Peru.

This was confirmed tonight in Quito in different statements by Foreign Minister Alfonso Barrera and government spokesman Augusto Alvarado.

Alvarado said that the withdrawal of Ecuadorean forces does not mean, "at any time, the ceding of rights or a change in the border policy or in thinking about Ecuadorean territory."

The withdrawal,he emphasized, solely and exclusively reflects a desire to avoid confrontations and to efficiently carry out the cease-fire.

Referring to the dialogue begun last night by military representatives of the two countries, Alvarado said that its purpose was to work out the details of the separation of forces and the demobilization of troops and material along the border.

This, he said, cannot be resolved in one night. It is a lengthy process that will "take some days."

He reiterated the Ecuadorean Government's faith in the formula of understanding and in the efforts of the representatives of the mediator countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States.

For his part, Foreign Minister Barrera said that he was "very pleased" with the agreement in a brief statement made before he delivered a complete report on the border problem to the members of the legislature in conjunction with Gen Marco Subia, defense minister.

Some hours before, the foreign minister had expressed his confidence that the "practical arrangements" constitute a "necessary step to make the cease-fire effective and to strengthen the peace between the two countries."

However, he also said that in the agreement, Ecuador made it clear that "the parties are not accepting anything in these practical arrangements and the terms of its acceptance do not constitute prejudgments on basic matters."

These matters, according to Ecuador, are the adequate delimitation of the area and attention to the demands for a sovereign, territorial and direct outlet to the Amazon River."

The lack of precision in defining the borders is attributed to an error in the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, signed on 29 January 1942, after an Ecuadorean-Peruvian armed conflict.

This treaty provided for the loss of Ecuador's outlet to the Amazon River and a total loss of 200,000 sq km of territory.

Peace Talks Continue

PA280238 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The Ecuadorean and Peruvian military delegates began their second round of talks in the Peruvian town of Aquas Verdes this afternoon to consolidate peace. Vice Adm Raul Soproza of Ecuador and Vice Adm Jorge Dubois of Peru, accompanied by the military observers of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States, will continue to study the terms of an agreement to consolidate a definite peace.

In statements to the news media in (Guaquillas), Vice Adm Raul Sorroza said that the situation was analyzed in last night's meeting and that the meetings so far have had positive results. He indicated that the negotiations are being held in accordance with the proposals of the friendly countries which are acting as mediators in the conflict that began on 22 January when a Peruvian helicopter gunship attacked the Ecuadorean post of Paquisha, seriously wounding Lt Hugo Valencia.

Sorroza also asked the Ecuadorean people to have faith in the country's leaders.

CUBAN RELATIONS CONTINUE ON 'BRINK OF SUSPENSION'

PA010039 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2335 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Quito, 28 Feb (EFE)--Cuban Vice Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon has not achieved an understanding with the Ecuadorean authorities and, therefore, the diplomatic relations between the two countries will remain on the brink of suspension.

Alarcon arrived in Quito on Friday morning and held two rounds of talks with Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Alfonso Barrera, the first yesterday afternoon and the second this morning.

Not having achieved a solution for the normalization of the relations, the Cuban vice minister will return to Havana--possibly tomorrow, Sunday--to hold consultations with his government.

Due to the tense situation which arose on Thursday, the under secretary of economic affairs of the Foreign Ministry, Cornelio Marchan, resigned after having headed the special mediating mission which went to Havana.

In the text of his resignation Marchan said that "this incident appears to be the result of interests alien to our own which are determined to disrupt the democratic and progressive character of Ecuador's foreign policy."

For its part, Cuba has confirmed its interest in normalizing and maintaining the relations with Ecuador and decided to send Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon to Quito.

A communique published this afternoon by the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry emphasizes that during the talks held with Minister Barrera the latter reaffirmed as "the only possible solution" the giving of satisfaction and the returning of the persons taken out of the embassy to the protection of Ecuador.

Nevertheless, the decision of an eventual break in relations seems to have been postponed, although it appeared imminent, and the same Foreign Ministry communique said that the Cuban vice minister will return to his country for "consultations" with his government.

In any case, according to local observers, it seems significant that the Foreign Ministry published another communique today stating that Foreign Minister Barrera had received Huber Matos, leader of the Cuban Government's opposition.

Matos explained his views "with respect to the survival and protection of the interests of the group of Cubans who occupied the Ecuadorean Embassy."

The communique said that the Ecuadorean foreign minister thanked him for his views and told him that the policy of respect for human rights is a basic and unalterable part of Ecuador's international conduct.

ARIAS STELLA NOTES WITHDRAWAL OF ECUADOREAN TROOPS

PY271616 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella has announced that as of 1200 yesterday, Ecuadorean troops still remaining on the eastern slope of the Condor Mountain Range began withdrawing to the western slope. The head of Peruvian diplomacy pointed out that the instructions of the guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol have thus been fulfilled. He stated that the (?decision) of the guarantor countries is in keeping with the Peruvian position, and that the minimum requirements set by Peru to begin negotiations have been accepted.

Talks are now underway in Huaquillas between Ecuadorean and Peruvian representatives who will try to come up with a formula to definitely bring peace to the border area and to allow demarkation to continue. The foreign minister indicated that in these talks Vice Adm Jorge Dubois Gervassi is representing Peru, while Ecuador is being represented by Vice Adm Raul Eduardo Sorroza Encalada.

ARIAS STELLA PRAISES GUARANTORS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PY281549 Lima Radio America in Spanish 1130 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] Here is the statement Foreign Minister Javier Arias Stella made yesterday after the cabinet meeting held at Government House:

[Begin recording] I would like to stress the significance of the declaration--published today by one of the metropolitan dailies--which the guarantor countries of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol, that is, Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States, first relayed to the OAS and yesterday conveyed to the United Nations.

This means that the will stated by the guarantor nations at the OAS to carry out their mission now and in the future has been duly recorded at the UN Security Council. This event is of great significance for this international organization, and it remarkably strengthens Peru's position.

At the same time, I would like to praise the performance of Roberto Ramirez del Villar, who has just returned from his assignment as special envoy to Brazil. There he carried out high-level contacts coordinating the talks which led to this new stage in the quest for lasting peace. It is important that this should be known because it proves not only the close ties between congress and the executive, but also that the various parties are cooperating with Peru's effort to strengthen peace in America.

In this regard, I would also like to report that we have issued special envoy credentials to Armando Villanueva, who will visit several countries as part of a political tour organized by his party. However, he has expressed his desire to take advantage of this trip to disseminate and strengthen the Peruvian position. We have asked him to do this as an official envoy, and he has accepted the offer. This is further proof of the patriotic feelings of all Peruvians, something for which we are very grateful.

Finally, I would like to announce that within the framework of this new policy of the Foreign Ministry, Luis Bedoya Reyes has been appointed Peru's special envoy with the rank of ambassador to the inauguration of the Korean president, which is scheduled to take place on 3 March. [end recording]

PRESIDENT FAVORS POLITICAL SOLUTION IN EL SALVADOR

PA282200 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1346 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 28 Feb (LATIN)--Plans by the United States to increase military assistance to counter an alleged international communist intervention in the Salvadoran situation have increased the Mexican fears that the conflict may spread to neighboring countries.

In a recent speech, President Jose Lopez Portillo urged foreign powers to put an end to intervention in the domestic affairs of El Salvador and said that "only a political solution would allow the reestablishing of peace in the region."

Fears of an East-West confrontation have moved Mexico to request a negotiated settlement to the Salvadoran conflict in which more than 14,000 persons have been killed in the past 14 months as result of political violence.

Lopez Portillo's speech seemed to coincide with the distribution of documents of evidence by Washington to support its charge that the USSR, Cuba and its communist allies are supplying weapons through Nicaragua to the leftwing guerrillas struggling to overthrow the civilian military junta of El Salvador.

Lopez Portillo stated that "the crisis which is temporarily focused on the Salvadoran conflict has spin-offs which threaten to involve all the states of the area."

The Mexicans, as well as the North Americans, consider the Central American isthmus as their natural sphere of influence, their so-called "backyard."

But although both countries seek peace in the region, their focus regarding the manner of achieving it differs. Washington appears disposed to help the Salvadoran junta with the influx of more military economic assistance, while Mexico believes that the only way to achieve peace in this small and overpopulated country is through a political agreement.

On the diplomatic front, Mexico firmly supports Nicaragua and Cuba in acute contrast with the U.S. stand against them. In sum, the Mexicans are exercising a more independent and active foreign policy, trusting in their oil wealth.

In a recent visit to Nicaragua, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda voiced a veiled warning against a planned increase in the U.S. military role in El Salvador and apparent attempts by Washington to isolate Nicaragua.

Castaneda told the Nicaraguans: "We have always been united and shall always be, above all in the difficult moments that await us."

SEPAFIN OUTLINES ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

FL272146 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2048 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Mexico City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)--During this decade, Mexico's oil exports will not exceed 1.5 million barrels daily and natural gas exports will not exceed 300 million cubic feet daily. This is announced in the energy program prepared by the Secretariat of Patrimony and Industrial Development (SEPAFIN).

The program establishes specific goals for 1990 with projections to the year 2000. Its main objective is support for national economic development by taking advantage of the abundance of available energy sources.

One of the objectives of Mexico's energy plan is to increase the duration of hydrocarbons reserves and develop an energy production and consumption structure capable of being adapted to the imminent shortage of hydrocarbons in the world.

For the purpose of precluding the risk of having to depend on a single product, the Mexican Government--through its departments (ministries) responsible for administration of the patrimony and industrial development--will endeavor to insure that hydrocarbons do not exceed 50 percent of current foreign exchange earnings.

In addition, the government will avoid the concentration of more than 50 percent of oil exports to a single country and maintain under 20 percent the participation of Mexican exports in the total oil and byproducts imports of any single country.

In the case of Central American and Caribbean countries, Mexico will supply up to 50 percent of their hydrocarbons requirements.

SEPAFIN announced that Mexico is contemplating a price policy in accordance with the National Industrial Development Plan (PNDI) which establishes an industrial development policy based on the supply of energy sources at prices lower than international ones.

Over the past 5 years, the relationship between the growth rate of the country's internal demand of primary energy and the gross national product was in the order of 1.7 percent. It is estimated that this rate should decrease to 1.3 percent between now and 1990.

Regarding this rate, in 1975 Mexico's was higher than that of countries like Japan, Spain, France and Brazil.

Current Mexican reserves of crude oil are 60 billion barrels, a figure which places Mexico in the vanguard among the top five countries with considerable oil reserves.

Based on the PNDI, the extraction of hydrocarbons during this decade will be maintained at a moderate rate and production should cover the country's domestic demand and leave a constant exportable surplus of 1.5 million barrels of oil daily and 300 million cubic feet of natural gas.

According to projections of the energy plan, this means that extraction of crude oil and liquid gas will be 3.5 million barrels daily in 1981 and 4.1 million barrels of oil in 1990. In the next few years, the extraction of gas will be 4.3 billion and 6.9 billion cubic feet, respectively. [as received]

Up to 1982, the aforementioned volume of exports will allow the country to cover its balance of payments needs at the rate indicated in the overall development plan.

Furthermore, crude oil refining capacity will be doubled by 1990 if export of refined products increases.

During this decade, it will be necessary to build five plants equivalent in size to the Minatitlan Refinery, the country's largest, the Secretariat (Ministry) of Patrimony and Industrial Development concluded.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON SUPPORT FOR CUBA, OTHER MATTERS

FL272216 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2148 GMT 27 Feb 81

[By Mariela Chazaro]

[Excerpt] Mexico, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)--The Soviet Union is willing to do away with the Warsaw Pact if the Western nations terminate the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Rostislav Sergeyev made this statement today after noting that his country supports Mexico's position for an end to the division of the world into hegemonic blocs.

The diplomat stated that the USSR's position toward Cuba is irrevocable. "We will always support our friends and will never abandon them," he emphasized.

Regarding U.S. threats of economically blockading Cuba for sending arms to El Salvador, he reiterated that the Soviet Union is not sending arms or specialists to El Salvador, adding that the United States is the only country helping that Central American nation in that regard.

(?He said) relations between Mexico and the Soviet Union have a very long history and no change to them is foreseen as a result of Central American events. He said that these relations are strong and friendly.

Rostislav Sergeyev announced that the USSR-Mexico 1981 National Exposition will be inaugurated on 2 March by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, who will be accompanied by Ivan Bodyul, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. Bodyul will arrive in Mexico City tomorrow accompanied by officials of the Foreign Ministry and Foreign Trade Ministry.

SOVIET COMMERCIAL ATTACHE OUTLINES TRADE PROSPECTS

FL280227 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0218 GMT 28 Feb 81

[By Mariela Chazaro]

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)--Trade relations between Mexico and the Soviet Union amounted to $20 million last year, Soviet Embassy Commercial Attache (Gennadiy Shurinov) reported today. He noted that the two countries expect to expand trade relations this year.

He emphasized that trade between the two countries has not reached the level corresponding to the real possibilities of the economies of the two countries. Efforts have been initiated, he announced, to expand such possibilities and increase trade.

So far, he added, negotiations have taken place to purchase from Mexico sulfur, concentrates of nonferrous metals, fluorite, candle wax, chickpeas and light tweed articles.

Mexico and the Soviet Union are interested in developing economic and technical cooperation in the fields of electric energy, equipment for the oil industry, fertilizer production, mining industry, housing construction and pharmaceutical industry.

(Gennadiy Shurinov) said the national exposition of the USSR to be held in this capital 2-20 March will help Mexican business circles learn more about the Soviet Union.

The diplomat also announced that a delegation of Mexican businessmen headed by Raul Salinas Lozano, director general of the Mexican Foreign Trade Institute, will visit Mexico [as received] in late May.

BRIEFS

NEW MILITARY CAMP--Tenosique, Tabasco State, 27 Feb (NOTIMEX)--The president of the republic, Jose Lopez Portillo, inaugurated here today the installations of the Gen Marcelino Garcia Barragan Military Camp which will house the personnel, materiel and equipment of the 73d Infantry Battalion. The president was received by Tabasco civilian and military officials upon arrival at the airport. The chief executive was accompanied by Secretary of National Defense Felix Galvan Lopez, Secretary of Navy Ricardo Chazaro Lara, Secretary of Agrarian Reform Javier Garcia Paniagua and Presidential Chief of Staff Miguel Angel Godinez. [Excerpt] [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2253 GMT 27 Feb 81 FL]

TORRIJOS EMPHASIZES NON-INVOLVEMENT IN EL SALVADOR

PA020109 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2256 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] Panama City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Gen Omar Torrijos, commander of the Panamanian National Guard, said today that this country has not sent "even a single bullet" to El Salvador.

Torrijos also said that he considers a peaceful, negotiated solution to the Salvadoran conflict to be possible.

The commander of the National Guard made these statements today on meeting with members of the Inter-American Defense College at his beach house in Farallon, 120 km southwest of the Panamanian capital.

The delegation of the Inter-American Defense College, led by Rear Adm Robert C. Connolly, arrived in Panama yesterday as part of a tour of the continent.

ROYO WARNS OF NATIONALIZATION OF BANANA FIRM

PA282240 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 27 Feb 81 p 14

[Excerpt] Panamanian President Aristides Royo has warned that the national government could put an end to the activities of the Chiriqui Land Company, a U.S. transnational firm, because of a breach of contract with this country. "United Brands, and not the government, is causing a crisis; legal powers exist and we could wind up nationalizing this enterprise," he emphasized. In a news conference in which he discussed various international topics, President Royo referred to United Brands, noting that the government could adopt extreme measures.

In conclusion, Royo said that "the intention of United Brands is to eliminate the "Multinational Banana Marketing Corporation (COMUNBANA)," a firm made up of six tropical countries which own the bananas they produce.

The break in negotiations between the Panamanian state and the U.S. transnational Chiriqui Land Company revealed the intentions of this agroindustrial firm to boycott the country's economy and COMUNBANA, reliable sources told this newspaper today. The national government and the affiliate of United Brands have been negotiating an economic package for over 1 week. This package is aimed at having the transnational company respect the contracts signed by the two parties as well as the urgent need to normalize the COMUBANA shipments.

This newspaper has learned that COMUNBANA--made up of Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and the Dominican Republic--has lost more than 150,000 balboas because of the boycott by the Chiriqui Land Company, which has refused to supply the fruit opportunely so that COMUNBANA can meet its international commitments.

This second version of the so-called "Banana War," which resulted in the creation of the Union of Banana Exporting Countries in 1974, is on the country's political-economic scene because of the preponderant attitude of the international company toward officials of the Panamanian Government, the sources warned.

FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTESTS TO U.S. ON WAGE ISSUE

PA011802 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 1 Mar 81 pp 1a, 6a

[Foreign Ministry Communique]

[Text] On 27 February, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry filed a formal protest note at the Embassy of the United States in connection with its erroneous and detrimental decision of withholding from the salaries of Panamanian employees of U.S. agencies operating in the canal area, in accordance with the Panama Canal treaty and its agreement annexes, the employer's contribution to the second portion of the 13th-month wage, which is supposed to be forwarded to Panama's social security fund.

The Panamanian Government's vigorous protest, presented by the Foreign Ministry, points out that the U.S. Government must immediately suspend the order to make this withholding inasmuch as this issue is now in diplomatic hands and the talks initiated some time ago by both governments have not been completed.

The Panamanian Government considers that talks should continue through diplomatic channels to try to arrive at a solution favorable to the interests of the workers and both governments and that will contribute toward the harmony of management-labor relations and eliminate the unrest of the Panamanian labor force in the Panama Canal area.

In its protest note the Foreign Ministry states that Panama is very concerned over the unilateral step taken by the United States which contravenes the spirit and letter of the 1977 Panama Canal Treaty and regrettably damages the good faith with which it should be interpreted and applied, besides being an erroneous interpretation of the Republic of Panama's internal legislation.

In addition, the Government of the Republic of Panama considers that making the employees pay a sum that should be covered by the employer is unfairly detrimental to wages, violates the rights and the labor victories of the Panamanian workers and could create negative situations that could affect uninterrupted and efficient transit of ships through the canal.

[Dated] 28 February 1981.

POPULAR ACTION PARTY WANTS NEW CONSTITUTION

PA281510 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 26 Feb 81 p 1

[Text] The Popular Action Party [PAP] announced yesterday during a news conference that on 6 March it will initiate in the province of Chiriqui a nationwide campaign for a prompt and direct-vote election of a national constituent assembly that should prepare a new political constitution which will guarantee a true de jure state. The new constitution would also order the holding of direct-vote elections for president of the republic before 1984 as the only real and effective way to achieve the democratization of the country.

The PAP leaders said that at the beginning of March they will present to the electoral tribunal the necessary documents to be formally constituted as a political party.

PAP has issued a statement calling for action from all the opposition forces to peacefully replace the present constitution with a new one created as a product of the free and direct decision of the Panamanian people.

According to PAP, the new constitution must define the functions of the National Guard, guaranteeing its professional character and removing it from politics. It should also establish the independence of the legislative and judicial branches from the predominance of the executive branch and the meddling of the public forces.

FDR'S UNGO COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICY IN EL SALVADOR

PA281747 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 28 Feb 81 p 14

[Text] Guillermo Ungo, leader of the Salvadoran Revolutiolnary Democratic Front [FDR] warned yesterday that "the danger of a regionalization of the Salvadoran conflict is increasingly real." He said the illegitimacy of the junta is growing daily while the people are consolidating their unity toward final victory.

Ungo, who is in Panama to participate in the special meeting of the Socialist International to be held here, criticized the policy of the United States which, he said, "is becoming increasingly involved in military escalation and is the only real economic, military and political mainstay of the dying government" of El Salvador.

The Salvadoran opposition leader said that world public opinion--and most particularly public opinion in Latin America, Central America and Panama--has reached the conclusion that it is necessary "to end the involvement" of the U.S. Government in the crisis in El Salvador to find an honorable political solution for Salvadorans.

Referring to the alleged Soviet and Cuban intervention in favor of the guerrillas, Ungo said "they were trying to make a mountian out of a molehill... an example of this is the European reaction: nil."

According to Ungo, the pluralism which exists in the struggle of the Salvadoran people is reflected on the international scene by the solidarity of a wide political spectrum which has been expressed in favor of this struggle.

He added that the U.S. Government has shown a lack of knowledge of the real situation, of the true causes of the Salvadoran conflict.

Regarding the mobilization of U.S. troops in the Caribbean, Ungo said it shows that the conflict is becoming increasingly regionalized. "In other words, the legitimate struggle of the Salvadoran people is affecting the democratic political process of all peoples in the area and even that of such distant countries as Great Britain."

He added that, even though the leadership is somewhat worried over the course of events, it has reason to feel "relatively opimistic" because "sooner or later the United States will understand the real situation and realize how its policy runs counter to its true national security interests."

Ungo said he will try to convince the U.S. Government that "we must coexist, that El Salvador has the right to self-determination and to have an independent government, and its people have the right to control their destiny. We do not want unfriendly relations, but coexistence and good neighborliness."

When asked to give his views about the role that may be played by the meeting being held in Panama by the Socialist International--which has expressed its willingness to mediate a political solution--the leader said the FDR has reiterated its fundamental interest in holding a dialogue with those who are contributing to an extension of the bloodbath--specifically the United States--and with the sectors of the Salvadoran Government that may show an interest in achieving a solution. "Regretfully, those gestures and attitudes reveal exactly the opposite. Colonel Majano, a man who advocates dialogue, is in jail under an increasing clampdown which is the exact response (of the government) to this desire for a dialogue."

Ungo recognized as positive the mediation of several governments and political organizations, such as the Socialist International, and noted that this mediation may be the way to a political solution to the crisis.

"We are well disposed but believe that some basic conditions must be previously discussed in order for the dialogue not to be a maneuver or a farce, and so we may begin the search for a solution which implies the achieving of peace based on justice," Ungo said in conclusion.

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL ON SALVADORAN ISSUE

PA020405 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0010 GMT 2 Mar 81

[Text] Panama City, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Latin American Committee of the Socialist International, meeting today in Panama, has asked Willy Brandt, former FRG chief of government, to intercede with U.S. President Reagan to seek a peaceful solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

The Socialist International Latin American Committee has also reached the following conclusions:

--To express its concern over the conversion of the Salvadoran peoples' struggle for liberation into an "East-West confrontation which disregards the nature and reasons of the conflict in that Central American country, reasons which were born of the unjust economic and social structures and the prolonged denial of democratic life to those people."

--The Socialist International feels that "only the Salvadoran people are empowered to resolve their own destiny and exercise their inalienable right to self-determination, free of interference from any foreign country."

--The Iberian American Socialists reaffirm that efforts must be made to seek "a political, democratic and pluralist solution to the crisis being faced by the Salvadoran people."

--The Socialist International calls for the strengthening of democratic systems throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

--The Socialists meeting in Panama offer "their good offices to mediate in the conflict with the sole objective being the interests of the Salvadoran people and the peace of the region."

--"We reiterate our solidarity with the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador, which we consider to be the legitimate representative of the Salvadoran people and a valid spokesman for the peaceful solution that we advocate," the communique of the Latin American Committee of Socialist International says in closing.

The meeting in Panama has been attended by Bernt Carlsson (Sweden), secretary general of the Socialist International; Jose Francisco Pena Gomez (Dominican Republic), secretary of the organization's Latin American Committee; Carlos Andres Perez, former president of Venezuela; as well as representatives of Germany, Barbados, Costa Rica, Chile, El Salvador, Spain, France, Guatemala, Portugal and Venezuela.

Carlsson, Pena Gomez and Carlos Andres Perez met today with Gen Vernon Walters, a special U.S. State Department envoy sent to Latin America to explain President Reagan's posture with respect to El Salvador.

The meeting took place in the presence of U.S. Ambassador to Panama Ambler Moss.

Although the meeting has not ended, Carlos Andres Perez left this afternoon for the United States, although he has refused to say what U.S. city he would visit and with what U.S. officials he would meet.

It is known that Carlsson has a meeting at the U.S. State Department scheduled for Tuesday.

'DIPLOMATIC SOURCES': WALTERS' TRIP FAILED

PA281853 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Washington diplomatic sources agreed today that the first diplomatic incursion into Latin America by the Ronald Reagan administration has failed. The deduction was made after analyzing the results of the tour by presidential envoy Vernon Walters, through Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Chile, to discuss the Salvadoran crisis.

According to diplomatic sources, Walters was received coldly in Mexico, indifferently in Brazil, with remote expectations in Argentina and with some receptivity in Chile. Walters, a retired general and former deputy director of an espionage center, was sent to Latin America to hold consultations and to obtain support for the first great international policy move by the Reagan administration.

Instead of including the Salvadoran matter within an effort to rebuild an overall Latin American policy, the United States turned the Salvadoran crisis into the focal point of the East-West confrontation and tried to involve those Latin American nations which have major problems in their relations with Washington.

Diplomatic sources also agreed that the entrance of the Republican administration into the White House was seen by some of these governments as the possibility for a new opening, or a new beginning, based on the principle of making enemies less hostile and friends more friendly. However, the only specific step so far has been the announcement of the lifting of the prohibition on U.S. investments and exports to Chile and its readmission into the inter-American Unitas naval maneuvers from which it was kept out last year by the Carter administration.

General Walters himself admitted, during his stay in Brasilia where he was received by President Joao Baptista de Figuereido, that: We are criticized if we don't engage in consultations; but when we do, it is considered to be pressure.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO 'CONCERNED' ABOUT U.S. NAVAL EXERCISES

PA011358 Paris AFP in Spanish 0519 GMT 27 Feb 31

[Text] San Jose, 26 Feb (AFP)--President Rodrigo Carazo expressed his concern here today over the U.S. naval exercises in the Caribbean, referring to the largest naval concentration in the world being conducted at this moment by the U.S. Navy near Puerto Rico.

The Costa Rican chief of state, however, noted his confidence that these exercises, which Washington sources say are not connected with the Salvadoran situation, will be carried out "within the rules that establish respect for the sovereignty of the nations of the area."

Carazo rejected the idea of asking President Ronald Reagan to avoid conducting U.S. military exercises in the Caribbean. A total of 41 U.S. vessels, including the aircraft carrier America, are engaged in exercise "Readex 1-81," scheduled to last several weeks.

The president's statements triggered an argument here when a newspaper noted on its front page today that the chief of state had accused the United States of "provocation" in carrying out the exercise. The story was denied by the president himself, who said he had limited himself to calling for peace in the area. Carazo also recalled that on a previous occasion he had recommended to former President Jimmy Carter to suspend a similar exercise during the exodus of Cubans last April. On that occasion, the exercise known as "Solid Shield" was suspended by Carter in what Carazo described, according to press reports, as a "practical and realistic" action.

GOVERNMENT PROTESTS NICARAGUAN TERRITORIAL VIOLATION

PA010334 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] A new protest was lodged by the Costa Rican Government today with the Nicaraguan Government due to the violation of our territory and the detention of two Costa Rican and one Nicaraguan fishermen in Costa Rican waters.

Acting Foreign Minister German Serrano Pinto, in a note dispatched to Nicaraguan Ambassador Javier Chamorro, notes that the three poor fishermen were detained in Costa Rican waters and towed to Ostional. The three were then taken in custody to San Juan del Sur, where they were interrogated on orders of Commander Casimir.

The detention of the three fishermen took place in Costa Rican waters, which means that members of the Sandinist army violated our waters. The note protests the manner in which the arrest was made and because the fishermen's nets were retained without explanation from Commander Casimir. It is obvious that the fishermen were in Costa Rican waters near Puerto Soley, the protest note states.

Our protest is respectful, but emphatic in the face of an affront to the national dignity. We sincerely feel that Nicaraguan authorities should receive adequate instructions regarding the border jurisdictions in which they are to carry out their duties to keep them from provoking such highly disagreeable incidents, the protest note states.

Finally, the note states that we expect the corresponding apologies, the formal promise that events like the aforementioned will not recur and the return of the five trammel nets confiscated in an action perpetrated outside the limits of the law.

REPORTAGE ON ILLEGAL VISA TRAFFICKING CONTROVERSY

Closing of Havana Consulate

PA281956 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] The government has temporarily closed its consulate in Havana because of the illegal trafficking with Cubans. The executive branch has officially taken steps in connection with the scandal involving illegal trafficking with Cubans. It has asked for information from local authorities and from the U.S. and British Governments.

Acting Foreign Minister Serrano Pinto, who is substituting for Bernd Niehaus during his trip to Europe, officially announced the temporary closing of our consulate in Havana and said consulate matters have been entrusted to the Spanish Consulate there. The Costa Rican consul, Vargas Bello, was instructed to return to San Jose pending a conclusion of the investigation on the granting of visas to Cuban citizens to travel to Costa Rica.

As can be noted, the executive branch has already formally intervened in the case of alleged illegal trafficking with Cubans, which has taken on scandalous proportions. As an initial step, President Rodrigo Carazo asked for official information from the authorities in charge of the investigations. He then asked for other reports from the U.S. and UK Governments because the Cubans only stopped in Costa Rica while in transit to the Bahamas and thence the United States. As is known, a high-ranking Security Ministry official was implicated in this matter when relatives of the Cubans charged in Miami that they had paid for the visas. However, it is also believed other Costa Rican officials are involved.

The alleged case of the Cubans may be solved in large measure next week, spokesmen for the judicial branch said. Carazo's request to U.S. and Bahamian authorities to help in the investigations will expedite the process, members of the official investigation team said. The documents that will be made available will make it possible to identify several people who are in some way connected with the traffic, the investigators said.

Notes Given To U.S., UK

PA281426 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Let the governments of the United States and Great Britain report how Cubans have illegally entered their territories from Costa Rica, the government asked a few minutes ago in a note delivered by Acting Foreign Minister German Serrano to the ambassadors of those nations. Some press reports, which are attributed to spokesmen for the Judicial Investigation Organization, indicate that light planes have been used to carry no fewer than 20 people. It has been said the trips are made from Costa Rica to the Bahamas and from there to the United States, the note says.

It is necessary to know how they enter the country, with what papers or how they can get by surveillance by the authorities, the note adds. It would be necessary to have information on the arrest of Cubans arriving in the United States after leaving Costa Rica. If they entered via the Bahamas, it would be interesting to know who granted them a visa or what illegal way they used to enter the island first and then the United States and how they entered and left the Bahamas illegally.

The Costa Rican Government is particularly interested in information from the Bahamian Government on the entry of Cubans coming from Costa Rica and what kind of papers they have used to enter and leave the Bahamas for the United States. If the Bahamian Government has noted any irregularity in the flights, why has it not reported this to the Costa Rican Government? It is important to know what means or subterfuge they have used to enable light planes to get past island officials, the FBI, the CIA, the navy, the air force and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The matter is being investigated in Costa Rica and so it would be very important to know the results of the investigations in the United States and the Bahamas for a complete picture. The information that may be obtained through the ambassadors will be very useful to the Costa Rican Government, especially if the investigations in the United States and the Bahamas can determine who is to blame for the illegal actions there, the note says.

Carazo Complaint to OIJ

PA282249 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] President Rodrigo Carazo has expressed displeasure with the attitude of the Judicial Investigation Organization [OIJ]. The chief executive formally complained to the court that he is being denied information while the press is publishing reports.

Carazo, who did not specify the case or cases to which he refers, hinted that the matter that has irked him is that concerning an alleged traffic with Cubans. I have been told today that the only suspect being held is a man who is at the disposal of the second arraigning judge, says one of the paragraphs of the letter Carazo sent to Jacobo Luis, president of the court.

The press has reported as verified facts the information it is getting from the OIJ. We Costa Ricans respect the sovereignty of the courts and cannot understand what is happening since a police body is allowing the public to judge and at the same time criticize an investigation. The republican system, which is based on equilibrium among state branches, resists the absolute and arbitrary exercise of power by a police body and I call this fact to the attention of the Supreme Court, whose prestige and equanimity will be affected by the actions of the OIJ.

The chief executive expanded on his position this morning with the following statements he made to William Cespedes in Palmares.

[Begin recording] A number of reports have been published here on which the government has received no details because when it asked for them it was told by the court that there were none and nothing could be made available. The newspapers are full of reports which are said to come from the OIJ. So we wanted to see since 2,000 people are more than [words indistinct]. Therefore, we believe that it is important to know how they had (?passed in front of) the CIA, the FBI and the U.S. Navy, and all those matters. For this reason we have asked for this information from the Bahamian and U.S. Governments. We want them to tell us what is happening because it is very important to verify the accuracy of the reports. All these things circle the globe. They are published here with a local (?flavor) and then are published there as if [words indistinct]. So instead of there being individual culprits, the guilty party will turn out to be Costa Rica. I think that, for the sake of dignity, it is important to know exactly if anyone is under arrest. The United States is a powerful nation and therefore it must know exactly what is happening (?and which people have arrived and under what conditions). [Words indistinct] can be hidden but not (?people). From this standpoint, it was very important to file an official request from the Costa Rican Government to the British Government, whose embassy in Costa Rica represents the Bahamas, and to the U.S. Government.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] In my opinion, if the judicial branch gives information to the press, this information should also reach the government. [end recording]

EL SALVADOR

DUARTE STATES WILLINGNESS TO HOLD DIALOGUE

PA010018 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1710 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Speech by President Jose Napoleon Duarte, during current work tour, at Juayua, Sonsonate Department, on 27 February--recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear friends of Juayua: Today has been a day of hard work because the governing junta is at this time practically dispersed throughout the national territory learning about the crucial issues affecting the country at this moment. We are all aware of the present crisis the country is enduring and which, God willing, we shall soon overcome.

I want to take a little advantage of your patience and time, to speak also to those presently abroad, to those living in foreign countries who actually are unaware of the truth about what is happening here due to the distorted information they receive, to those who are also concerned over their relatives' well-being, to the Salvadorans living in the United States, in Europe and in South America, all of whom are concerned over what is happening to their brothers, their wives and their parents.

Within the political plan, we believe you are all aware that the government's main objective is to achieve peace. It is a process of pacification in which we do not want a military confrontation, but a political solution through the effort of all Salvadorans to gradually achieve that desired peace. It is not with death, confrontations or bloodshed that our problems are to be solved. That is not the way. The way is that of peace and understanding among ourselves, without killing each other over our differences. Let there be no hatred among us.

Unfortunately, in the past 20 years we have been affected by hatred encouraged by those in the communities who wanted to rule supreme, denying opportunities to others, all of which generated hatred. What is the result of all this? Those who became frustrated turned into guerrillas and later into terrorists.

All this must be changed. We must pacify the country and begin a dialogue and open the doors to all those who chose the wrong path so that they may drop their ways of violence, radicalization and frustration and join those of us who want to live in peace and love each other, those of us who want to live in a democracy.

That is why the government has granted an amnesty. Today, we told the labor leaders and workers in Acajutla that if there was anyone present involved in such activities, now was the time to mend their ways as we are opening our arms to them and welcoming them to work with us in our efforts to achieve democracy. That is what we want; that is what the Salvadoran people want: peace, which is the main objective of the government and of the armed forces.

That is why we are willing to enter into a dialogue, but not to surrender the government, because the government does not belong to us. The fact that I am president does not mean that I can give away the government. I am in the junta only temporarily, because only the people, no one else, have the right to yield power. Therefore, to hold a dialogue means to reach an agreement as regards what is the path to democracy, not to arrange pacts about governments or public posts, because that is not the proper path.

Therefore, I am willing to go anywhere, to talk with anyone to seek peace through dialogue, because that is what the Salvadoran people want.

And, of course, the political plan must culminate in free elections in which parties are organized, even if there are differences of opinion. This must be done without resorting to machineguns the minute someone disagrees. This must be done so that those who dissent may summon the people and express their disagreement freely; so that there is freedom to criticize this government without fear, if this government is mistaken, and to allow the people to decide if what this government has done is right or wrong, if it must be corrected or changed.

Such are the methods for solving the problems as civilized people, as human beings, where anyone may be able to face the problems calmly, express his views freely and be able to say: I want to live here in this land where there is peace and tranquillity. That is freedom. That is what the government and the armed forces want. That is what the Salvadoran people want.

Therefore, this is the political program--to reach that moment, and all Salvadorans of all the towns in the country can contribute to it by trying to find harmony among themselves and trying to avoid hatred and rancor, envy and selfishness.

Of course, we cannot ignore the fact that we are now the center of world attention. El Salvador is the word most used in the world's newspapers at this time because everyone wants to give an opinion as to how we Salvadorans should live.

The leftists want to impose one way of life on El Salvador and other countries want to impose their way of life on El Salvador. This cannot be. It must not be. We also cannot ignore the fact that what is happening here is affecting other peoples of the world and that is why we must be conscious of the role that we are playing at this time.

We cannot disregard the fact that what is happening in El Salvador is not an isolated case, that it is the result of a geopolitical plan for the entire area, including the Caribbean and Central America and that an action is being planned that will be staged by the world's nations in an attempt by one side and the other to take power. For this reason, the entire world has been flooded with half-truths, falsities and out-and-out lies because they want to impose a totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist structure on the country.

This has been the plan of the extreme left. To this end, they have intervened from Vietnam, Korea, Ethiopia, the GDR, the USSR, Cuba, Nicaragua and so many other countries which have gotten involved in this, sending weapons to help the guerrillas to impose their will, to impose a totalitarian state on the country.

But on 10 January, the people told them no and the army said no to that formula. The army defeated and continues to defeat these terrorists who have been left no choice but to burn buses and kill innocent people in the dark.

The people, our noble Salvadoran people, when the guerrillas called them and said: Let us stage an (?insurrection); let us stage a strike, the people said: No. It was enough for me to go on television for a little while to tell the people: Go to work, and the people are working. This meant determination, firmness. The people have said no to violence. The people have said no to Marxism-Leninism. The people have said no to totalitarianism. Therefore, the mandate of the people is clear. The people want democracy. The people want freedom. The people want justice.

This is the message that the Salvadoran people gave to the world on 18 January. That is why things began to change in the world, because the people gave their decision. With this message, we also have to continue to move forward, because those great powers, Russia and other forces, have sought to accelerate things in our country and that is why the United States is telling Russia: Be careful about disregarding the rights of that tiny country that is El Salvador.

Therefore, we Salvadorans--and I am interpreting the feelings of all Salvadorans--approve of having the United States tell the peoples of the world that they cannot come here to El Salvador to be abusive, that they cannot send weapons to allow a Salvadoran or foreign guerrilla to come here to kill Salvadorans, that they must allow our people to choose the way in which we want to live, that they must allow the Salvadoran people to make the basic decision on what destiny they want and who they want to govern them. Therefore, in this state of affairs, we do not accept intervention from anyone because any kind of intervention is bad.

That is why I have said that to the extent that weapons are being sent to the guerrillas through Nicaragua, to that extent we do need military aid, because that military aid will serve to help us keep those gentlemen from imposing totalitarianism in the country. But of course, if those arms no longer come in, if that military aid no longer comes in, if Russia, Ethiopia and all those countries and Cuba and Nicaragua no longer get involved in our problems, then I am absolutely sure that the will of the people will prevail and there will be an end to all this terrorism because the terrorists will be isolated. And then, of course, we would not need so many weapons because it is not a problem to be solved by killing one another, but rather a problem to be solved politically.

Seeing things in this way, let us then realize that to the extent they continue to attempt to introduce arms and aid into El Salvador through Nicaragua, all we Salvadorans here will be on a war footing, prepared to prevent, along with our army, the imposition of Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism in the country.

I am saying this from here in Juayua, here in the mountains, to the entire world, so that there may be no doubt that I am saying this, not only for myself but for the Salvadoran people. This is the message. This is the path that the people have chosen. This is the government program. It is a program of peace, peace for Salvadorans. We want to respect all the world's peoples, but we want them to respect us also. For this reason, I send a message to the Nicaraguans and to the Nicaraguan Government: Do not meddle in Salvadoran problems; concern yourselves with Nicaraguan problems, with the hunger of the Nicaraguans, with the unemployment of Nicaraguans, with the poverty of Nicaraguans. They need a revolutionary effort and that is the duty of the Nicaraguan Government. Leave us alone to do what this government is obliged to do here to resolve those same problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition being faced by the Salvadoran people.

The Nicaraguans must know that their destiny is linked to the destiny of the Salvadorans, that the freedom of Nicaragua is the freedom of El Salvador and that each Central American country must think about achieving its own freedom and about achieving its own justice without hatred and without rancor. That is why we have said clearly that we have never launched an attack on Nicaragua, because it is up to the Nicaraguan people to solve their problems freely, as it is up to us Salvadorans to solve the problems of Salvadorans.

This is the program. This is the effort: To struggle to save our economy, and we believe that in 3 years we will be successful. If God wills, we will do so in less time. We will be able to do so if all Salvadorans struggle, if we do not falter, if we do not yield to threats, if we move forward, if we work, if we cultivate our lands as we did this year. The second year is now coming for harvesting and planting. I am sure that we will be successful. Such is the political problem.

The social problems will be faced with the changes already underway. These changes are already underway in education. Before, in order for a teacher to get something, he had to come to San Salvador and wait for days in long lines before obtaining an audience with the ministry. Today, that system has been decentralized. Now, there will be opportunities for the professors and the communities to solve their problems promptly, assisting each other. Thus, we will solve many problems more readily.

We have the problem of illiteracy which we will have to face. We have the problem of health; we have the problem of recreation for our youth, as there are no properly equipped installations in which to enjoy themselves. All these problems must be faced.

The most important of them all, however, are the problems of peace and our economy. We must all contribute to achieving peace. We must all contribute to improving our economy by practicing austerity. Let us work hard and avoid unnecessary spending. Let us save and sacrifice to contribute with whatever we have because we will be helping the country. All Salvadorans have a job to do at this moment which can be performed right in our homes or in our jobsites.

In remembering all those who offered their lives, the soldiers who died, the innocent who died and the guerrillas, mistaken or not, who also died, let us pray to God to receive them in his arms. Let us also ask God to give us strength so that those of us who are here today in El Salvador may have the opportunity very soon to see our land living in peace, in justice and freedom. This is the message we have for you who have had the patience to listen to us here today. [Words indistinct] Thank you.

DUARTE DECLINES INVITATION TO VISIT EUROPE

PA280236 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1601 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Jose Napoleon Duarte, president of the Salvadoran government junta, has declined an invitation from European Christian Democrats to visit countries on the European Continent.

A spokesman for the Information Secretariat of the president of the Salvadoran republic said that President Duarte had declined the invitation for "reasons of work." The invitation was extended to Duarte, who is also president of the Christian Democratic Party of El Salvador, several weeks ago.

Durate had also received an invitation from German Christian Democrats to attend their congress on 4 March in Bonn. It had been rumored that at that congress there might be a meeting between Duarte and Guillermo Manuel Ungo, president of the opposition Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) of El Salvador, for a dialogue that would end the present situation prevailing in El Salvador. However, Ungo was the first to say that he would not go to Bonn to talk with Duarte, since the FDR feels that an agreement must be reached, not with the revolutionary government junta, but with the United States.

President Duarte, who has always been an advocate of "dialogue wherever, whenever and however, to bring peace to the country," now declines the invitation to visit Europe for reasons of work.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON VARIOUS ISSUES

PA281813 Paris AFP in Spanish 1944 GMT 27 Feb 81

[By Carlos Samayoa]

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (AFP)--In an interview with AFP, Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena said here today that the worst thing that could happen to El Salvador would be a foreign intervention.

He noted that the Salvadoran conflict has acquired great international importance over the past few days, admitting that "Whatever happens in El Salvador will influence the rest of Central America in one way or another."

El Salvador is a country that respects the people's right to self-determination and the right to nonintervention in the domestic affairs of other governments. "Therefore, we have the right and moral authority to demand that others do not interfere in our affairs," Chavez Mena said. "We," he added, "cannot accept any foreign intervention and demand that Salvadorans be left alone to solve our own problems because we know one another and know how to reach any solution."

However, the foreign minister described the proposal by Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo to have the OAS begin studying a possible mediation to work toward a political and peaceful end to the Salvadoran crisis as a "healthy concern." Notwithstanding, Chavez Mena noted that the OAS has its own jurisdiction as determined by the inter-Am erican legal system and that the OAS cannot overstep this jurisdiction with regard to the salvadoran case.

The foreign minister, who said he favors a "peaceful and eminently political" solution to the crisis in his country, added: "At the appropriate time, when the circumstances call for it, we will resort to the OAS based on the legal principles it abides by."

Regarding the possibility of a dialogue between junta President Jose Napoleon Duarte, a Christian Democratic leader, and Guillermo Ungo, president of the opposing Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) and a Social Democrat, being promoted by German diplomacy, Foreign Minster Chavez Mena said he did not know any specific details. He said that he also did not know if President Durate would be willing to talk with Ungo but commented that "We must use all means and resources available to attain the pacification of the country as long as they do not affect the country's democratic system and sovereignty. He added that the Salvadoran junta has always been open to dialogue as an instrument to obtain a peaceful solution to the problems of the country.

Chavez Mena said that this dialogue could even be extended to the polls because it is in an electoral process "that the best dialogue could be held to decide the country's destiny and thus overcome the present crisis of violence."

On another topic, the Salvadoran foreign minister also discussed repeated charges on the alleged support that the Nicaraguan Covernment is giving to rebel groups in El Salvador. Regarding this, Chavez Mena stated that the Salvadoran junta is waiting for "completely satisfactory explanations" from the Nicaraguan Government. He explained that his office sent a note of protest to the Managua government in light of several incidents revealed by pilot Julio Romero regarding the cooperation of Sandinist authorities in the supply of arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas. In this note, the Foreign Ministry demanded "thorough and sufficient explanations." of the case. Romero, of Nicaraguan-Costa Rican descent, was captured by Salvadoran authorities last month as he made a secret landing at a ranch in the country's eastern region in order to drop weapons for the rebels, presumably transported from Managua.

In conclusion, regarding the diplomatic offensive of the new U.S. administration of Ronald Reagan theoretically aimed at stopping the influence of the Soviet bloc in Central America and the Caribbean and particularly in the Salvadoran conflict, Chavez Mena only commented that "it is their policy. They must know how to reach their goals."

Regarding the already-announced U.S measures to block the arms supply from the East to the Salvadoran guerrillas, which Washington has made repeated charges about, Chavez Mena also evaded the topic, saying that "It is a measure and decision that very much concerns the United States."

FOREIGN MINISTRY DENIES CONSUL'S ALLEGED KIDNAPPING

PA270453 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2223 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Foreign Ministry sources today denied the kidnapping in San Miguel, 138 km east of San Salvador, of the Salvadoran consul in Esteli, Nicaragua.

Relatives of Consul Norman Francisco Chavez Zamora yesterday reported the kidnapping by three heavily armed unidentified persons who broke into his residence. The consul's brother, Hugo Chavez Zamora, who also works at the ministry, this morning announced the kidnapping and his release later.

At noon today Foreign Ministry sources reported that the news of the kidnapping "was a regrettable error" because Chavez Zamora had been arrested by members of the security corps during the course of an investigation in that city. They added that the consul was released by the Sandinist [as received] authorities once they learned of his identity and that after apologies he was returned to his family. The consul will leave San Miguel Sunday to return to his post in Esteli.

REPORTAGE ON RECENT ARMY-GUERRILLA FIGHTING

PA270449 Paris AFP in Spanish 2347 GMT 26 Feb 81

[By special correspondent Juan Nicolas Gaudenzi]

[Text] San Salvador, 26 Feb (AFP)--A report that some 60 guerrillas had died in clashes this week in San Lorenzo, some 60 km from this capital, was denied by Salvadoran Army spokesmen.

The report, refuted by the Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA], said 60 bodies were to be burned today in San Lorenzo, the scene of heavy fighting in recent days. COPREFA spokesmen, questioned by AFP, contacted the San Vicente garrison commander who controls the forces operating for the past 2 days in San Lorenzo. The commander denied the reports and said his troops entered the town Tuesday with the objective of supporting technicians rebuilding the two high voltage towers dynamited by guerrillas a few kilometers from San Lorenzo. He added that the work is not yet completed and they will remain in the town until it is done.

San Lorenzo had been in guerrilla hands for several weeks. This month the army made three attacks there. On all these occasions the guerrillas withdrew to the nearby mountains and returned when the army left.

On Tuesday some 30 soldiers reached the center of the town, which was completely empty but which formerly had some 3,500-4,000 inhabitants. However, when newsmen arrived in San Lorenzo on Tuesday afternoon, the troops were under fire from at least 20 snipers deployed in the outskirts, some 200 or 300 meters away. Last-minute reports in San Salvador say sporadic firing from the rebels on the outskirts of the town is continuing.

Heavy Fighting in San Lorenzo

PA272147 Paris AFP in Spanish 2112 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] San Lorenzo, San Salvador, 27 Feb (AFP)--The largest antiguerrilla operation in the paracentral front of El Salvador is underway at this moment on the outskirts of San Lorenzo, a small town some 60 km east of the capital which has been totally destroyed.

After resisting several attacks, between 200 and 300 Farabundo Marti Liberation Front (FMLN) fighters were able to get out of the town following a strong attack by army forces last Tuesday. These units are now pursuing them with a large infantry force supported by helicopters, mortar fire and two 105-mm artillery guns placed on nearby hill.

2,000 Troops at Conchagua Hill

PA012010 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1933 GMT 1 Mar 81

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Fierce fighting between guerrillas and the Salvadoran Armed Forces is underway at Conchagua Hill, 188 km east of San Salvador, according to reports by military sources today. In the operation, according to the commander of the mission, are some 2,000 infantry, 5 air force aircraft, heavy artillery and the navy, which is blocking the guerrillas' escape to the coast.

Conchagua Hill is of great strategic importance because it is in the easternmost part of the country, only 30 km from Nicaraguan territory, where, according to Salvadoran intelligence, the guerrillas are receiving weapons by sea and air in unmarked aircraft and ships.

Only 2 weeks ago the army mounted a similar, smaller operation. After the operation, a military spokesman said the guerrillas had fled when aircraft arrived and there had been no fighting or casualties. However, the fighting now is fierce and, according to the commander, who was not identified, "it has become necessary to burn the entire area around Conchagua Hill."

Among actions attributed to the guerrillas holed up in Conchagua are the burning of the municipal mayor's office, courthouses and private homes, attacks on military posts and other harrassment actions in which three soldiers were killed a few days ago.

According to reports, except for the assistance of the navy, the forces participating in the operation are the ones who a few days ago wiped out 50 guerrillas in San Lorenzo (56 km east of San Salvador), though only 23 bodies were identified because the rest were buried. So far no one has been able to give details on the number of casualties caused by the fighting at Conchagua Hill.

Fighting in La Union

PA272348 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 27 Feb 81 p 41

["The Latest National News" column]

[Text] Fierce clashes took place yesterday morning in La Union and Conchagua between army troops and terrorists, it was officially confirmed.

According to a report, the clashes began at 0800 yesterday when a group of unidentified armed men attacked the military post in La Union and harangued the population with the usual propaganda. The troops repelled the attack and the terrorists fled in the direction of Conchagua Hill a few kilometers from La Union. No casualties were reported.

The same source added that in Chirilagua and in Intipucan the military patrols had been harrassed by armed groups who also fled. Fighting still raged in the slopes of Conchagua Hill where the army has cordoned the area to prevent the rebels from escaping. Clashes were also reported in Gotera. In another report, however, it was said that everything is calm but that the troops are on a state of alert for any surprise attack.

Army in Control; Torrijos Named

PA280307 Paris AFP in Spanish 0213 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 27 Feb (AFP)--A Salvadoran Armed Forces press committee spokesman reported here today that the army has "absolute control" over the department of La Union and the Conchagua volcano in eastern El Salvador.

Several clashes between the rebels and the army have been reported in the past 24 hours in the area of La Union, where the port of Cutuco is located. At the same time, variations in the voltage and power outages continue due to the guerrilla sabotage of the electric power installations.

Meanwhile, Nicaraguan youth Orlami Tardencilla Espinosa was once again presented to newsmen this afternoon. He said he is a Sandinist guerrilla and that his mission in El Salvador was the infantry training of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Forces (FMLN). Tardencilla Espinosa said that some Central American countries are helping the Salvadoran guerrillas but he ruled out that this involved government sectors. However, he did link Gem Omar Torrijos in the support that the FMLN receives and compared that aid with the cooperation that the Panamanian leader gave to the Sandinists to overthrow Anastasio Somoza.

Tardencilla Espinosa said that Colonel Majano was involved in the coup d'etat that was attempted against the government junta in 1980 "to subsequently turn over the garrisons to the guerrillas."

Radio Venceremos Report

PA281621 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] The enemy forces failed in their operations against our positions in Conchagua, La Union Department. Throughout the day of 26 February, its forces bombed this area and fired artillery shells at it, but our forces did not suffer a single casualty.

Radio Venceremos is awaiting reports on enemy casualties caused by our counterattack. We are also trying to obtain information on the number of casualties among the civilian population as a result of the dictatorship's bombing of the civilians, the true victims of these attacks, as we have also witnessed in the departments of Morazan and Usulutan.

Military Casualty Report

PA272223 Paris AFP in Spanish 2116 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (AFP)--A total of 64 leftists were killed by the Salvadoran Armed Forces in the past 24 hours, according to military sources here today.

According to the official report, of that number, 54 died during the San Lorenzo battles in San Vicente Department 60 km east of here, while the other 10 were killed in several house raids in Soyapango, on the eastern outskirts of San Salvador.

These deaths must be added to scores of others slain on the streets of the capital and its vicinity, also victims of the political violence that has been causing grief in El Salvador for over 1 year.

Concerning the incidents at San Lorenzo, the army reported the recovery of the area following heavy fighting with the rebels, who lost over 50 men. Their bodies were left behind in the mountains near that town. A military source added that rebel groups today continued harassing the military outposts in the San Lorenzo area.

Although they admitted sustaining casualties among their ranks, the official military sources did not supply figures, while other circles insist "the army losses are also considerable." San Lorenzo and the surrounding area apparently had been turned into a huge rebel refuge.

Unofficial sources here reported that the armed clashes between the army and guerrilla groups have increased along the slopes of the Conchagua Volcano in La Union Department to the east. However, the number of casualties and magnitude of the fighting is unknown since the official sources have kept silent.

Meanwhile, the authorities reported that 10 rebels died in Soyapango, on the eastern outskirts of San Salvador, when they resisted the army during raids on their homes.

The army, the authorities explained, has been engaged throughout the week in searching houses in various sectors of the capital in view of the constant subversive activities reported by the public to telephone numbers announced by the armed forces for that purpose.

Surrender of Peasants

PA280428 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0056 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Some 60 peasants, presumed to be members of leftist groups, turned themselves in to the armed forces today in a garrison in the town of El Paraiso, 38 km north of San Salvador.

According to a lieutenant at the 4th Infantry Brigade, "the peasants turned themselves in voluntarily under the government junta's amnesty decree" which expires on 11 March. The presumed leftists who surrendered were accompanied by some 50 women and some 25 children who had left their homes in several towns in that northern area.

Some peasants told ACAN-EFE that they did not belong to any leftist organization, but had gone to the garrison to protect their lives in view of the continuous fighting between guerrillas and the army in the area. One peasant who claimed to be a leader of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BRP), said that he had decided to turn himself in to the armed forces because he had been deceived by the guerrillas. He added that the peasants had requested amnesty because they needed it.

The tasks which they carried out for the Salvadoran guerrillas, they said, consisted of "digging ditches and erecting barricades and other obstacles to prevent the armed forces from passing."

According to the lieutenant, the safe-conducts that will be issued to the peasants on Wednesday will protect them from the security corps, but "will not protect them from the guerrillas groups if they return to their homes."

18 Dead in Soyapango

PA280256 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1918 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--An armed clash in the past few hours between members of extremist organizations and security agents in the city of Soyapango, 5 km east of San Salvador, left 18 dead. According to inhabitants of the town, the confrontation took place a few hours after security agents staged a search operation in a slum sector in the town, known as "Villa Jesus". The authorities said that the military carried out the search because of the suspicion that most of the inhabitants were members of organized guerrilla groups. During the search, the military authorities confiscated "subversive" propaganda, homemade bombs and some weapons that had been hidden in a tunnel.

Mounting Death Toll

PA270510 [Editorial Report] San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 24 February, page 1, reports that four of the five workers who were kidnapped on 23 February in Antiguo Cuscatlan were found dead outside the cemetery of that town. San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 25 February, pages 2 and 27, reports that 10 persons traveling in two vehicles were killed in an area known as La Bermuda, 6 km from Suchitoto. According to the paper, seven of the victims died on Monday when 20 extremists stopped a pickup in which they were traveling and "executed" them. On pages 3 and 18 the same paper reports that a powerful bomb caused serious damage in the Office of the National Water and Sewer Administration, ANDA, as well as in various business centers of the area on 24 February. The bomb exploded at 0620 at the main entrance of the ANDA building.

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish on 25 February, page 3, reports that many civilians and extremists were killed in a terrorist attack 24 February on San Antonio de la Cruz, Chalatenango Department. The attack was a new attempt to occupy the town. Reinforcements were sent from Chalatenango to San Antonio de la Cruz and to the 5 November hydroelectric plant, known as Chorrera del Guayabo. The plant is the main target of the guerrillas.

The same paper on page 2 reports that the extremists who are sowing terror in Suchitoto warned that "only until today will they permit the use of vehicles in the city and that those who despite this warning utilize transportation will be machinegunned and destroyed with bombs. "measures have been adopted to protect the residents of the city.

Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish at 2216 GMT on 26 February reports from San Salvador that a group of guerrillas attacked and set fire to the city mayor's office at El Paisanal, 46 km north of San Salvador. The report adds that the guerrillas fled with documents they stole from the mayor's office.

RADIO VENCEREMOS RUNS SERIES OF COMMENTARIES

FMLN Beneficiary of U.S. Arms

PA250312 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Feb 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The increasing repression and permanent disregard of the people's aspirations by a dictatorship which has submitted the majority of Salvadorans to a regime of repression and death, which has been going on for the past 50 years, has been unable to break the will of the people who today are courageously facing their assassins in defense of their legitimate rights and freedoms.

The enemies of the people, the oligarchy, the fascist military leaders and U.S. imperialist, have resorted to every means to put and to maintain in power, against the will of the people, corrupt and killer leaders. To carry out their objectives they have massacred the people, committed selective political crimes against sympathizers, members and leaders of the people's organizations.

The Christian Democratic junta has to its credit 1,000 deaths a month. Genocide, the mockery of the people's aspirations, the imposition of rulers and the imperialist exploitation of our economy--all this must stop. This is what the people want, the people who are struggling to establish a democratic and pluralist government which guarantees the economic and political interests of the majority. The enemy's reply to the people's aspirations and struggle is a bloody repression. The people in self defense have armed themselves led by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. The enemy is furiously clinging to power and remains in power only by the arms supplied by imperialism. The people must arm themselves to establish their type of government. The enemy is unleashing a civil war to try to defeat the people's revolution. The people in arms will establish peace by defeating the dictatorship. The first step was taken on 10 January with a general offensive launched by the FMLN which is loyally leading the Salvadoran people's struggle and fighting bravely against the assassins and henchmen of the oligarchy and U.S. imperialism.

The arms with which the FMLN is fighting have been obtained partly by seizing them in battle from the enemy and also by eluding guards who protect the weapons.

The Christian Democratic military junta has asked U.S. imperialism for military support because it cannot stop the FMLN's offensive. The junta is trying to disguise its lack of shame by accusing Nicaragua, Cuba and the USSR of intervening in our country, but on the other hand, it permits U.S. meddling in the internal affairs of El Salvador by supplying army and special troops which add up to approximately 1,000 men. But the supplies that the Reagan administration is today giving the Salvadoran assassins will be in our hands tomorrow, in the hands of the people and the FMLN. These arms will be seized by the revolutionaries and will be used to expel the imperialists to obtain and to defend peace and the people's government.

The Salvadoran people are organizing defense committees in districts. They are arming themselves and standing around their vanguard, the FMLN, in order to finish once and for all the bloodbath unleashed by the genocidal Christian Democratic military junta supported by U.S. imperialism. We are going to win. We are sure of this and each day our hearts, arms and fists are hitting the enemy with all our strength. We are fighting because we want peace. We are sure we are going to win. We will win.

Disagreement in U.S.

PA270402 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 26 Feb 81

[Text] Statements by Senator Edward Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador Robert White and other U.S. figures agree that the military aid President Reagan has given to the Salvadoran dictatorship is nothing but the delivery of weapons to those who are massacring the Salvadoran people.

Former Ambassador White charged that the perpetrators of crimes in El Salvador are not the members of a phantom rightwing but members of the security forces.

The political differences in the United States between the ousted Democrats and the Republican Party have placed the dictatorship in a macabre striptease. They have laid bare before the world the [words indistinct] that the fascist junta represents.

The former ambassador to El Salvador put his finger on the sore with his statements today. He has caused a small political tremor in Washington by denouncing from the inside the war crimes that Reagan is committing in El Salvador.

This offensive launched by Reagan's adversaries in his own country ridicules the Yankee accusations about the alleged participation of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in our liberation war. Reagan's White Paper has been morally destroyed by U.S. politicians. The White Paper has become for Reagan a black paper of lies and desperation.

Reagan knows that regardless of how many bombs he provides, his puppet Duarte cannot withstand the decisive attacks by the people. Reagan knows that along with the followers of Perez Jimenez, Batista, the shah of Iran and the Somozists, the Duartists will soon be in Miami, including the genocidal high command, that is, if they are able to escape the people's justice.

The legitimacy of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] as an expression of the unity of all Salvadorans has achieved a great victory in the world. Our struggle has been understood and accepted throughout the world. That is the reason for the diplomatic victory of the political-diplomatic commission of the FDR which has opened the doors of the solidarity of peoples. While Reagan's White Paper is burned just as the dictatorship's ammunition dump in San Miguel was burned, our people are advancing with their vanguard, the FMLN.

Respect for POWs

PA281445 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Excerpts] Recently, the general command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, jointly with members of the military youth signed a proclamation setting the foundations for the formation of the new army, the people's army, led by its vanguard, the FMLN. According to the proclamation, the military democratic progressive and revolutionary forces agreed on a number of issues and stipulated, as recommended by the FMLN, respect of all prisoners of war and their physical integrity. Likewise, the proclamation invoked respect of the Geneva Convention concerning the rules of war.

Today, Radio Venceremos interviews a prisoner of war, captured by the FMLN on the Francisco Sanchez eastern war front.

[Question] First of all, tell us your name.

[Answer] My name is Santos Enrique Diaz Albarenga and I am a native of the Morazan Department.

[Question] How has the FMLN treated you?

[Answer] I have been treated well, contrary to what I had been told at the post, that once the guerrillas captured a soldier, they tortured and killed him.

[Question] Have you been tortured?

[Answer] No, I have not. I thought that once they caught me, they were going to torture me, but that has not happened.

[Announcer] This is Radio Venceremos. At this moment, we are interviewing prisoner of war Santos Enrique Diaz Albarenga, of the 3d Regiment stationed in San Miguel, who was captured at the Francisco Sanchez eastern war front.

[Question] Do you think that if the United States stopped sending arms, this war would come to an end sooner?

[Answer] The more arms the United States sends to El Salvador the more difficult it will be for the country. We were told at the post that only Nicaraguans were fighting alongside the guerrillas.

[Question] How many Nicaraguans have you met already?

[Answer] I have not seen a single one. I have only seen Salvadorans.

[Question] In the guerrilla camps you have been to, have you seen black Nicaraguans and Cubans, as the national radio claims?

[Answer] No, I have only seen people of my own country, El Salvador.

[Question] Santos Enrique, the dictatorship and Sergeant Duarte insist there are Cubans and Nicaraguans throughout the country. So far, they have not come up with a single piece of evidence to confirm this. On the other hand, we have supplied a number of proofs showing the presence of former Somozist guardsmen serving with the death squads. Any foreign correspondent can confirm this by checking with the files of the military hospital where these Somozist guardsmen are taken when wounded in combat or in any other criminal activity. I would like to ask you if there are any former Somozist guardsmen at your post in San Miguel?

[Answer] Yes, there are quite a few who were guardsmen in Nicaragua, as I was told when I arrived there as a recruit. There were about 500, but soon I saw less and less; apparently they were being transferred to other posts.

'Failure' of U.S. White Paper

PA010338 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2300 GMT 28 Feb 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] Internationally, the fascist military junta is more isolated every day.

Moreover, the latest maneuvers by Ronald Reagan, former Hollywood actor, have failed overwhelmingly with the failure, in the eyes of the world, of his so-called White Paper which sought to give the public the impression that our struggle for national liberation, our struggle against 50 years of (?oppression), against a voracious oligarchy maintained by imperialism, is promoted by the USSR and other socialist countries.

In any case, our people do not have to give any explanations to Mr Reagan as to where our weapons were obtained. All our people know of the historic struggle. They know what it has cost us to arrive at this point in time, a moment in which the rise of peoples' struggles have placed our people in an advantageous position in the offensive against the fascist dictatorship.

What must be noted at this time is that, as it has been doing for over 50 years, imperialism continues to arm the most obscure, reactionary and retrogressive sectors of El Salvador's political life. It must be noted that tons upon tons of weapons and bombs are unloaded at Ilopango Airport daily. Some of the airplanes that arrive are like those that we have seen fly over the Francisco Sanchez eastern front in the past few days to massacre our civilian population, to murder women, old people and children with the same weapons that the gunman gives to Sergeant Duarte and his military clique.

One thing that must be made clear at this time is that imperialism, that international gangster, is sticking its filthy hands into this struggle, which is no more than the struggle of an entire people against 50 years of robbery, shamelessness, looting and surrendering of the Salvadoran fatherland to foreign designs.

In these 50 years of historical popular struggles, our people have earned the right to demand aid and solidarity from all the democratic and peace-loving governments and from all the brother peoples of the continent and the world. We are not going to answer any of Reagan's hackneyed questions, because what we have here are people who have said "enough," and who will not permit their dignity to be trampled or permit arrogant gendarmes to come into our territory.

Ever since the general offensive began against the dictatorship and U.S. imperialism, our country has begun to establish the basis of a new era of national sovereignty and national dignity and we will not take a single step backward until El Salvador is free and sovereign.

NICARAGUA

CHAMORRO ANSWERS QUESTIONS ON 'DIRECT LINE'

PA290318 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Feb 81

["Direct Line" program with Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, codirector of LA PRENSA newspaper--live]

[Excerpts] [Question] Good evening, Companero Chamorro Barrios, my name is Rolando Zaldana, from the San Judas neighborhood. A leader of a Somozist bank, Juan Carlos, who claims to be the leader of a so-called National Liberation Army that is in Honduras, recently published a paid advertisement in a Honduran newspaper stating support for your political and journalistic position, and for your ideals, and he encourages you to continue with your struggle. Do you think that your ideals and your political plans can be supported by killers who massacred our people and even killed your own father? Thank you.

[Answer] My political line is definitely different from that of those persons. They can use my statements the same way they can use statements by government officials. They can use my position to justify theirs, but mine is definitely a civic political position and I don't have any intention of supporting those counterrevolutionary movements, much less any movement being led by elements of the former genocidal guard.

[Question] My name is Pedro Espinoza. I am unemployed and I live in Las Americas, in Managua. Companero Chamorro, I would like to know your position regarding the economic pressure that has been placed on us by important State Department officials who have threatened our fatherland and our revolution. As you know, as everybody knows, some of the threats have been made effectively. There is, for example, the withholding of $15 million from the famous $75-million loan, and the withholding of the $9 million for the wheat that our people consume, thus bringing hunger to the people. I would like to know if you agree with these measures of the U.S. administration that are obviously harmful to our people and revolution.

[Answer] My answer is that I definitely do not agree with the withholding of economic aid for Nicaragua, or with the withholding of the wheat shipment, or with any reprisal measure. I believe that the more aid that comes to Nicaragua, the better, and I, as a patriot--although I may not agree with some government policies--must say that my opinion is that aid coming from any country must be welcomed. Regarding the pressure you talk about, I think that we have to see the reason for the pressure, that is, the government should say what arguments they are using. I am sure that there is communication at a high level and they know better than I do why the U.S. Government is exerting pressure, and the Nicaraguan Government should respond to the judgment being passed by the U.S. Government. I believe that it is the Nicaraguan Government and not me who should answer this question.

[Question] This is Ramon Serna Lopez of the Los Angeles district. Your newspaper attacks Marxism and communism a good deal and I understand you like capitalism. Since you are well versed in these topics, I would like to ask you what good things capitalism did for us in the social and cultural fields before the victory of our revolution.

[Answer] To begin with, you assume I support the capitalist ideology. I am a social democrat and have said so on many occasions when I have been interviewed. Second, you assume that the Somozist government is the only type of capitalist government that exists, that is to say, there are capitalist governments and capitalist governments. For example, the Costa Rican Government is capitalist, the U.S. Government is capitalist, the Venezuelan Government is capitalist. In other words, just as there are various types of socialism, so are there various types of capitalism, which can range from an exploitative type--which you seem to have preconceptions about occurring in various places and which was visualized by Marx in the 19th century--to economic systems in which surpluses become part of the national wealth through state investments.

[Question] My name is Pedro Rafael Garcia and I am from Juigalpa. My question is what do you think happened at the airport when Jose Estaban Gonzalez arrived from Europe and Venezuela, thereby offending many respectable citizens, such as Fabio Gadea Mantilla. Second, I would like you to comment on the arrest of Jose Esteban Gonzalez, coordinator of the Human Rights Commission in Nicaragua, by the Sandinist authorities and the consesequences that may befall the Sandinist government from this arrest?

[Answer] I think both instances seriously hurt Nicaragua's image abroad and I think this is one of those cases in which the medicine kills the patient. In other words, the medicine is more costly than the illness. Supposedly, the demonstration staged at the airport was to protest the statements Gonzalez made abroad. However, it so turned out that the very human rights Gonzalez claims to be defending were violated during this incident at the airport. This should result in extremely complicated and serious international repercussions because we are showing what type of people emerged from the revolutionary victory.

As for the jailing of this gentleman, who is coordinator of the Human Rights Commission, I think the consequences of this action should have been taken into account, because he is highly esteemed around the world, whether the Nicaraguan Government likes it or not. In other words, it is a fact that he is esteemed.

[Question] My name is [name indistinct] Aragon. I am a journalism student at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua and live in Ciudad Jardin. Mr Chamorro, the United States has launched a strong campaign against Nicaragua. At the same time, Gonzalez travelled abroad and made attacks like those made by the United States. What is your position in regard to Gonzalez's campaign against our country?

[Answer] You are making a false statement. You claim Gonzalez's attacks are the same as those made by the United States. The way I understand it, the U.S. attacks basically stem from a charge that Nicaragua has been aiding, or serving as a bridge for, arms for the Salvadoran guerrillas, and Gonzalez's attacks deal with charges of violations of human rights in Nicaragua's jails. So, I felt that your premise, that is, your question is totally false. Therefore, I cannot answer it because it is inherently incongruous.

[Question] My name is Martin Pineda and I am a physiology student. High-ranking personalities of the new U.S. administration have threatened to intervene militarily in Central America (?and more specifically) in El Salvador. Would you agree with such U.S. military intervention in Central America?

[Answer] I would not only disagree with U.S. intervention but with intervention by any other country like Cuba or the Soviet Union in Central America.

[Question] My name is Aura Valencia and I live in Las Americas district. I have two questions to pose to you. The first one is, why is more coverage given in the newspaper LA PRENSA to news favoring the U.S. policy against the Central American people, and most particularly the Salvadoran and Nicaraguan people? The second one is, why did LA PRENSA criticize Somozism at one time and why is it now supporting Somozists and counterrevolutionaries?

[Answer] You assume that we publish reports that go against the Salvadoran people. That is your personal opinion. We publish the news that is issued by the most reputable international agencies of the world. We publish what we think has a certain degree of value. Of course, we cannot verify every news item issued abroad, because obviously we would have to be going to the scene of events constantly.

On the other hand, you say that LA PRENSA defends the Somozists, which I feel is again your personal opinion, one that is based on a false premise. We have not defended the Somozist guardsmen who have directly attacked our people or who have attacked defenseless members of the Sandinist People's Army. In fact, on more than one occasion, we have published editorials which vigorously condemn actions of this kind.

[Question] Good evening, Companero Chamorro. This is Leonor Mendieta of La Prensa neighborhood of this city. This is my question: Today your newspaper has a report from a Moravian bishop who claims to have been told--because he was not present--that a Cuban gave the order to kill in the Prinzapolka events. Mr Chamorro, the bishop in question has no proof, since he says that he was told without giving the name of his source. Yet your paper has headlines giving the report as true, with all the serious implications of this. What kind of journalism is this? Can one with impunity say in a headline, something that has not been confirmed even by the person who is interviewed? My question is: Do you believe that this is freedom of the press? Do you know how much crime is involved in this kind of journalism, Companero Chamorro?

[Answer] We published a caveat above the headline in which the priest, or rather the Moravian bishop, said he had received a report that a Cuban had given the order to fire in the Prinzapolka events. The caveat said: Moravian bishop gives his version. This obviously means that it is not an official version or the version of LA PRENSA. We were not inventing this. We even have it recorded.

I believe that the bishop is an authority on the coast who has a certain degree of credibility and obviously, of reputation, and that his words should be taken into account as a version to be investigated. The Moravian bishop said that he was informed of these events by the priest who was officiating at the mass and that he would go, as part of the mediation commission--that peace commission that has gone to the Atlantic coast--to see for himself just what occurred.

Now, we are not stating that it is true or that it is false. We have also published other versions of the same incidents. We have published the version given by the members of the state security organization and of a witness presented by them. I believe that in journalism, the reader should have access to a number of versions and not just to the official version, in order that he may form his own opinion.

On the other hand, as I have said, you are claiming something that is not totally true, because the headlines carried a caveat saying that the Moravian bishop was giving his version. I think this clearly answers your question.

[Question] Jose Lorenzo Rodriguez of Ciudad Jardin. Mr Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, I would like to ask you two questions. The first is: How is your political position different from that of Robelo; and the second: Why did LA PRENSA, in a 13 February editorial, make a point of questioning our people's military preparation for the defense of the country? Thank you very much.

[Answer] Obviously, there are some points of convergence in the political positions held by Mr Robelo and me, but I wish to note that Mr Robelo is the leader of a political party and I am a journalist who, as a Nicaraguan, also has the right to have my own political thoughts. I believe that we agree we want a representative democracy in this country, in which there is broad freedom of expression, a true political pluralism, full respect for human rights and no monopolization of the entire state apparatus and communications by a single political party. In other words, there are a number of basic points of agreement.

Obviously, there are shades of difference, as there are differences of opinion even within a family, between brothers, because we do not all think alike.

Regarding the report you mention in which LA PRENSA reportedly casts doubt on the military preparation of our people to respond to a possible foreign intervention, which has been threatened on various occasions, my answer is that we have not written any editorial statements on this subject. In other words, if we publish a news report, it is information and not an editorial position of the paper. What LA PRENSA questions or does not question can be seen solely in its editorial position, on the editorial page, on the left-hand side, where LA PRENSA expresses its official position with regard to the most important events that occur in the country.

[Question] Good evening, my name is Rene Lopez and I am from Los Bosques of Altamira. Mr Chamorro, in your newspaper LA PRENSA, which is the paper of us Nicaraguans, I read some days ago that Secretary of State Haig said Nicaragua is involved in the smuggling of arms to the Salvadoran guerrillas. Do you think this information given by Secretary of State Haig is true? Thank you very much.

[Answer] It is not up to me to say whether what Secretary of State Haig says is true or not. I would refer your question to the Nicaraguan Government, which has been formally accused of carrying out those arms operations. Indeed, the U.S. Government, through its embassy, has circulated what they call a White Paper, a folder, that allegedly contains all the proof that the charges being made are true. I imagine this paper will have already been shown to the Nicaraguan Government.

[Question] Companero Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, I wish to congratulate LA PRENSA newspaper, through you, for the great work it is doing for the Nicaraguan people. My question is: What do you think of the meaning that is being given to the world Sandinism? Thank you.

[Answer] Well, it seems to me that on many occasions, the word Sandinism is being abused, and on other occasions, its use is being restricted.

I believe that the word Sandinism is being abused when there is an attempt to apply it to an ideology that is not Sandinist, but rather Marxist-Leninist.

I believe that the use of the word is being restricted when there is an attempt to apply the term solely to a certain political party, because if we believe that Sandino was really the father of the new Nicaragua, the father of the fatherland, then I believe that all honest Nicaraguans are Sandinists who feel that Nicaragua should be a republic that is truly independent of any foreign interference.

[Question] I am Jose Romero from Subtiava neighborhood in Leon. I want to know if you think there is real political freedom for the political parties in Nicaragua right now. I ask this in light of the arrests of Social Christian youths here in Leon. Also, do you think that the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua is still autonomous?

[Answer] Regarding the first question, there is no real political freedom but I don't think there is totalitarianism. In other words, if there were totalitarianism, there would be no freedom at all, and if there were freedom, the arrests you cited would not have occurred. Therefore, we are on a middle ground. Where are we going? To the left or the right? To totalitarianism or to freedom? I couldn's answer that.

About the other question, I don't think the university is autonomous. I don't think that even the private Central American University is really autonomous. The national university is totally managed by the government. The word autonomous in its title is really out.

[Question] I am Elias Noguera. I am calling from Altamira de Este, Mr Chamorro. Do you think a counterrevolutionary threat exists in Nicaragua? What would your attitude and that of your followers be in the event of U.S. intervention in Nicaragua?

[Answer] We obviously think there is the possibility of counterrevolution because we have heard the government leaders' remarks giving the training sites of the alleged counterrevolutionary guerrillas. Obviously, our position is a civic position. We think Nicaragua should once and for all set aside violence as a way to overthrow the government. I think Nicaraguans still have hopes that the people will understand once and for all that the civic route of the polls is the way of human beings and this is really the only way the people can get ahead. That is why we follow a political line within that civic context. That is what we are striving for, so that a political and democratic breakthrough will be made here so that we can achieve real national unity and not a rhetorical unity.

[Question] Good evening, Mr Chamorro Barrios. I am Genaro Obaldia from Don Bosco. As a worker I am very concerned that your paper, which is not the same as before, is at the service of those who in the past never cared about us but despised us as they still do today. When will your newspaper stop publishing the offensive epithets hurled at us by some bourgeois sectors and even some members of the church hierarchy? They have said that the mass of the people are unthinking, barbarians, uncouth [words indistinct]. I want to add something else. We workers and peasants have never exploited or done any harm to anybody. So please let us, especially your paper, take advantage of the freedom and democracy we have been experiencing since 19 July 1980 [as heard]. Furthermore, I am not a public servant. I add this so that tomorrow your newspaper won't say I am a fanatic or a neofascist which is another of the epithets thrown at the people I mentioned before. Thank you.

[Answer] We would like the people of Nicaragua, everyone in Nicaragua, to think independently and not necessarily follow slogans which is what the mass of the people normally does; that is, we are trying to see the often mentioned new man emerge in Nicaragua, a thinking man, a critical man who can analyze reality and give his own opinion. We are not trying to insult anyone by saying that. We just want that new man to emerge and grow. What has been said about the new man here is that he is a docile member of society, a man who can just say "order me." I think the new man should be different and he should think and act independently according to his own conscience. Therefore, we are not trying to hurt people by saying that, but we are trying to bring about what has been mentioned so often: that new man.

[Question] I am Jaime Medina from Monsignor Lezcano neighborhood.

I would like to ask you if the Sandinist Front is a political and military force, why are the political parties acting disunited instead of seeking unity to cope democratically with Marxist stands?

[Answer] Your question is addressed to the political parties. I think it is up to them to take up your concern and unite and set up a democratic bloc.

[Question] I am Manuel Aragon Buitrago. A few days ago you told Commander Daniel Ortega that you don't believe in proletarian internationalism. I ask you, are you a member of the proletariat?

[Answer] No, I am not. That's my reply.

[Question] I am Rodrigo Espinoza from Bolonia neighborhood. Mr Chamorro, as a managing editor of a newspaper, you must be aware of many incidents related to human rights in Nicaragua. What do you think about what Mr [Jose Estaban] Gonzalez has said about the 800 people missing in Nicaragua and the 8,000 political prisoners? That's all, thank you.

[Answer] I could not really say how many political prisoners there are in Nicaragua. I haven't counted them. However, I think this is absurd. Although what Mr Gonzalez said--assuming that what he said is true--was an exaggeration, I think that to throw him in jail and make the fuss that has been made will cause further harm to the revolution and to those who think that human rights are fully respected here because an example has been given that this is not so by putting the coordinator of the Human Rights Commission in prison. This is quite a paradox.

[Question] My name is Juan Gomez. I am from the Mexico neighborhood. I would like to ask a question of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios. Formerly, it was LA PRENSA's policy to defend the interests of the workers. At present, that same paper attacks the Sandinist peoples revolution and it is our understanding that the revolution defends the interests of the workers. Therefore, our question is: Mr Chamorro, what interests does LA PRENSA defend--those of the workers or those of the traitorous reactionaries?

[Answer] You have possibly never visited LA PRENSA. If you were there often, you would realize that the great majority of the persons who come to LA PRENSA with reports and with problems come not only from the working class, but also even poorer classes--the unemployed. We also receive a large number of complaints from the labor unions and there is a continuous flow from the people to LA PRENSA. If this were not so, I am sure that LA PRENSA would have a small circulation or perhaps it would already have disappeared. But the fact that LA PRENSA defends the interests of the Nicaraguan people, not only the workers, but all the Nicaraguan people, is the reason for the unprecedented success of the newspaper LA PRENSA, of which I am sure you are aware. Similarly, many persons in government are perfectly aware of this and that is why they often direct their guns against LA PRENSA, because they know that the newspaper is a popular newspaper, one which really reaches the Nicaraguan people, and a paper that, without the need for a subsidy of any kind, without need for official propaganda, simply competing in the daily plebiscite in the streets of Nicaragua, continues to be the paper preferred by the Nicaraguan people and remains at the highest peak of popularity and of credibility among Nicaraguan papers.

[Question] Mr Chamorro, do you believe the fact that you were invited to the "Direct Line" program means that there is full freedom of expression? My name is Maria Auxiliadora Pereira and I am calling from Leon.

[Answer] I believe that the fact that I have been invited is a sign that there is freedom of expression. To go from that to the statement that there is full freedom of expression would be a hasty conclusion, in my opinion. I believe that we have the framework of freedom of expression, but there are certain prohibitions, certain decrees which obviously restrict this in certain areas of information; therefore, we cannot smugly say that there is full freedom of expression.

[Question] Mr Chamorro, have you not realized that your paper publishes news that is dangerous, for example the statements made abroad by Jose Esteban Gonzalez? I say dangerously because they jeopardize the people's stomachs. Thank you, Mr Chamorro.

[Answer] Your adjective of dangerous, regarding published matter, could also be applied on certain occasions to certain speeches that are completely excessive in tone and that have even greater international repercussians than those statements to which you refer. I refer to the things that are said on many occasions by the commanders of the revolution and the members of the government junta which at times harm the image and prestige of Nicaragua and at the same time make more difficult the task to which those officials claim to be committed--the national reconstruction of Nicaragua and the unity of all the Nicaraguan sectors to permit the crystallization of the national goal of raising production and rebuilding Nicaragua.

[Question] My name is Pedro Largaespada and I am calling from the Altagracia neighborhood. I would like to ask a question of Pedro Joaquin Chamorro regarding the fact that LA PRENSA denies that there is intervention in El Salvador and here in Nicaragua. Also what does he think of the suspension of the wheat loan to Nicaragua? Is this intervention or is it not?

[Answer] We have not denied that there is intervention, but we cannot say that something exists if it does not. In other words, as long as we have no knowledge of intervention, we cannot say that it exists. So far, there has apparently been a flow of weapons from other countries to El Salvador and as far as I know, the United States has also recently begun to send weapons. But a military intervention from other countries has not taken place.

I feel that the soft loan for the purchase of wheat should be given as soon as possible. I feel that it is a harmful measure and a counterproductive one, because instead of winning over the Nicaraguan people, the U.S. Government is unnecessarily earning itself an enemy, because the aid that is being given to Nicaragua--and it is a form of aid, a soft loan and if it were not a form of aid, something favorable to the Nicaraguan Government, the latter would not seek it--should be given. I feel that not only that loan, but other soft loans should be given and that we should receive not only wheat, but all kinds of food in Nicaragua. I would like this country to be free of all shortages.

[Question] In conclusion, I would like to ask you something personal. Do you think that the journalism practiced by LA PRENSA is revolutionary and objective or counterrevolutionary? How would you characterize your reporting?

[Answer] Well, I believe that the only criticism that is negative, the only criticism that is not objective is criticism that is based on lies. We believe, at LA PRENSA, in fact we are certain, that we make the greatest effort to find the truth and to publish the greatest number of versions possible. If we fail at times, it is because our political line, if you will, at times is superimposed on that search for objectivity. This not our fault in a [word indistinct] manner. We try to be objective and to give the Nicaraguan people the version that is closest to the truth. I cannot, however, accept the application of the term counterrevolutionary to the newspaper LA PRENSA, because we have helped this revolution in the programs that have been most beneficial to the people. LA PRENSA has behaved, from that viewpoint, in a manner that is most lauditory toward the revolution, that is praising practically all those measures which have been beneficial to the people. We have never criticized the progress, the advances made by the revolution. We have even had many reports praising it. We do not seek to carry out a systematic, destructive criticism. However, we feel that it is necessary for us to maintain our independence and our opinions, to allow LA PRENSA to continue to be what it is at present--a newspaper that has a broad popular base. Although we are described as the paper of the minority, the results and the numbers speak for themselves. I believe this is what makes newspapers: popular acceptance in the daily competition and the fact that the Nicaraguan people can choose and have more than a single way of being informed.

I believe that the fact that there is pluralism of opinion in information, or simply a variety of information media, is beneficial to all Nicaraguans, because we believe that the Nicaraguan people can think and can choose the truth.

Radio Sandino Commentary

PA280353 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Station commentary]

[Excerpt] Hello, hello, this is "Direct Line." Here is Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios.

[Begin Chamorro Barrios recording] I believe that the word Sandinism is being limited when it is only applied to a certain political party because if we believe that Sandino was truly the father of the new Nicaragua, then I think that all of us honest Nicaraguans who believe that Nicaragua must be a republic truly independent from any foreign interference are Sandinists. [end recording]

We are listening to Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Barrios, a bourgeois, a newsman; an apolitical person; managing editor of LA PRENSA; irresolute; a man of representative democratic principles; a nonbeliever in international proletarianism, a man who agrees with the ideas of Robelo, Jose Esteban Gonzalez, Fagot Muller; and a social democrat. All these epithets are perhaps close to a description of this controversial young newsman. Chamorro Barrios appeared on "Direct Line," an important program of Radio Sandino, last night.

This was the first special program we have presented, and according to various opinions we received later, it was a great experience for our people concerning the explanation of many concepts. Approximately 60 questions were asked during the 1 hour and 10 minutes of our program. Some 32 questions were answered, 90 percent of which were aimed at criticizing and questioning the line of the newspaper which was previously headed by the martyr of public liberties [referring to Chamorro Barrios' father]. The codirector of LA PRENSA explained the basis of his position calling many of the questions inappropriate and ill-intentioned. This was the first case of a "Direct Line" guest who found so much opposition to his views.

After an impartial analysis of the contents of the answers, it is very possible that more than 90 percent of those who asked questions are satisfied or dissatisfied because the replies went off the topic or were described as inappropriate by Chamorro Barrios.

Right before his very eyes, the Radio Sandino newsmen were receiving the questions on the telephone, yet he insisted on stressing that some of the questions had been recorded ahead of time. The truth is that as soon as we announce the name of the guest for the "Direct Line" program, our people start asking questions and call all day long. If Chamorro Barrios insists on believing that 32 questions were selected for a premeditated reason, he didn't make much use of the evidence that was right in front of him.

I am not a proletarian. I am a bourgeois and I am proud to say that we have a successful enterprise, he noted in one of his answers. This sole question proves why Chamorro Barrios did not understand most of the questions and why he described them as ill-intentoned. Although he did not want to admit it, the personage who was presented in "Direct Line" yesterday is fully reflected in the writings of LA PRENSA and this is the reason there was so much criticism during the program.

In conclusion, the experience was positive for our people in the exercise of a true democracy, the people's democracy.

MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY CONCLUDES VISIT

Castaneda Luncheon Speech

FL271332 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0455 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Mexico City [as received], 26 Feb (NOTIMEX)--Mexico has not [as received] repeatedly voiced its opposition to foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries and will not cease to voice this opposition as long as there is even the slightest indication that a nation's liberation efforts are shadowed by foreign interests.

This was stated today by the Mexican secretary of foreign relations, Jorge Castaneda, during the luncheon hosted by the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction of Nicaragua. Castaneda said that the Nicaraguan revolution, both in time of war and, expecially, in time of peace, is an example of how the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination is a guarantee of democracy. The people's achievements in 20 months are evident and impressive because of the magnitude of local effort as well as international solidarity.

The Mexican foreign secretary said that with the triumph of the Nicaraguan revolution we have reaffirmed our own democratic institutions. Our closer ties and increased exchanges respond to this within the general framework of Latin American fraternity. The Mexican official said that he was very happy to be back in Managua (Nicaragua's capital) and meet with the members of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction. I witnessed the first days of this free country when the revolution won its victory. Now that I am back, I feel as encouraged and moved as the first time by this atmosphere of work and enthusiasm that engages, drives and gives life to the will and effort for national reconstruction of a noble people acting freely. The task, he added, requires energy and perseverance; it is necessary to get rid of the last debris of the dictatorship to build the new social order on clean ground. The Nicaraguan majority is engaged in this daily, quiet and difficult endeavor.

The Mexican foreign secretary said that of course there is the political debate characteristic of all democratic processes. There are divergent positions and, also, distrust and outside threats, but Nicaragua goes forward with the serene conviction of people who are sure of their freedom, resources and historic destiny. Much has been said about what the Nicaraguan people have shown themselves and the world during the hard years of struggle and the no less difficult years of reconstruction, but little has been said about what Nicaragua has contributed to the world, such as experience and high hopes for the self-determination of peoples, something that unfailingly and inevitably makes of this principle a rare privilege.

Nicaragua contradicts fatality and becomes an example that there are as many solutions as there are peoples when peoples are ready to fight for these solutions with determination and with their own methods. That is what we Mexicans did with our revolution, that is what the Cubans did with theirs, that is what Nicaragua did recently and that is the struggle the Salvadorans are waging at present. All struggles make us brothers, and they also make us distinctive: the sharing of just aspirations and the diversity of national identities. I can state that Mexico will faithfully fulfill its international commitments and that in strict respect for the principles of self-determination and nonintervention, will tirelessly help in the search for negotiated solutions with which to overcome misunderstandings and differences among American nations.

Departure of Delegation

PA272306 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 27 Feb 81

[Text] Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda and his delegation returned home today after a 2-day visit to Nicaragua. During his stay Castaneda met in Managua with members of the government junta and of the Sandinist Front National Directorate. The Managua reconstruction board presented the keys of the city to Castaneda. He also placed a wreath of flowers at the monument to Commander Carlos Fonseca.